



MAURITIUS

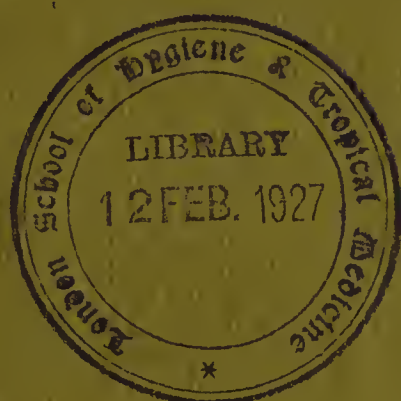
ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

MEDICAL & HEALTH

DEPARTMENT

1925



COLONY OF MAURITIUS

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 1925)

I.—Vital Statistics.

POPULATION.

The area of Mauritius is 720 square miles (460,800 acres) and the estimated population on 31st December, 1925, was 393,708.

The estimated population of the Colony on 31st December 1924 was ... 387,743

The excess of births over deaths in 1925 was ... 7,218

394,961

The excess of departures over arrivals in 1925 was ... 1,253

The estimated population of the Colony on 31st December 1925 was ... 393,708

(The estimated population of the Dependencies on 1st January 1926 was 8,769).

The distribution of the population and density for each district are shown hereunder :—

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF MAURITIUS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.

Districts	Area in square miles	General Population			Indian Population			Total Population			Densi- ty per square mile
		Males	Fe- males	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Port Louis ...	16	16,169	14,470	30,639	12,085	10,984	23,069	28,254	25,454	53,708	3,356.75
Pamplemousses ...	69	3,360	3,216	6,576	16,285	14,879	31,164	19,645	18,095	37,740	547
Rivière du Rempart ...	57½	3,119	2,769	5,888	14,084	13,147	27,231	17,203	15,916	33,119	576
Flacq ...	115	5,556	5,125	10,681	22,948	21,149	44,097	28,504	26,274	54,778	476.8
Grand Port ...	101	6,769	6,375	13,144	19,919	17,836	37,755	26,688	24,211	50,899	504
Savanne ...	93½	3,881	3,670	7,551	14,260	12,632	26,892	18,141	16,302	34,443	368.4
Plaines Wilhems ...	78	15,615	18,395	34,010	24,871	23,705	48,576	40,486	42,100	82,586	1,058.8
Moka ...	89	2,756	2,819	5,575	13,893	12,700	26,593	16,649	15,519	32,168	361.4
Black River ...	101	2,637	2,532	5,169	4,795	4,303	9,098	7,432	6,835	14,267§	141.25
Total...	720	*59,862	59,371	†119,233	‡143,140	131,335	274,475	203,002	190,706	393,708	546.8

The density of population is very high, 546.8 per square mile for the whole island.

For the district of Port Louis, the density per square mile was 3,049 at the decennial Census of 1921, and 3,356.75 on the estimated population on 31st December, 1925.

In the town of Port Louis there were about 20,376 persons per square mile according to the 1921 Census returns ; the other towns then stood as under :—

Beau Bassin and Rose Hill ... 4,210 persons per square mile

Quatre Bornes ... 4,550 „

Curepipe ... 5,077 „

A high density of population *per se* is not necessarily associated with a heavy death-rate although it commonly carries with it other evils e.g. increased liability to fouling of the air, the soil and the water, and the easy spread of infectious diseases. The housing accommodation and the conditions of living of a community are of more importance in connection with health than the number of persons living on a square mile. Unfortunately in Mauritius and especially in Port Louis this density of the population occurs amongst the poorer classes where the housing conditions are appalling ; and intemperance, badfeeding, and the other inevitable conditions of poverty exist.

MARRIAGES

1,833 marriages were celebrated in 1925 against 2,144 in 1924 showing a decrease of 311. This is equivalent to a marriage rate (number of *persons* married to every thousand of population) of 9.5 ‰ against 11.2 ‰ in 1924, 10.9 ‰ in 1923 and 10.0 ‰ in 1922.

* Excess of males over females in General Population including Chinese : 491—Excluding Chinese, the General Population shows an excess of 4,072 females over males.

† General Population excluding Chinese ; 110,552.

Chinese Population : 8,681 (6,622 males, 2,059 females).

‡ Excess of males over females in Indian population : 11,805.

§ Black River is the only district in which the population has decreased.

BIRTHS

The total number of births for the year was 16,545 (8,299 males and 8,246 females 5,278 in the General and 11,267 in the Indian population), showing an increase of 1,115 over the figure for 1924. The birth-rate was 42.6 ‰ against 40.4 ‰ in 1924, 36.8 ‰ in 1923 and 37 ‰ in 1922; an average of 39.27 ‰ for the quinquennial period 1921–25 and 37.7 ‰ for the quinquennial period preceding 1925.

The district birth-rates (on population as at 1st January of each year and the five-year mean rates are as follows :—

District	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Mean ‰
Port Louis -	37.5	37.3	39.9	42.9	42.0	41.87
Pamplemousses -	39.9	36.0	31.0	37.4	39.8	37.2
Rivière du Rempart -	45.9	37.2	32.6	41.2	43.6	39.48
Flacq -	37.1	32.7	34.3	38.4	42.0	37.27
Grand Port -	32.9	35.8	36.1	37.0	40.7	36.8
Savanne -	35.1	39.3	39.2	38.9	39.4	38.0
Plaines Wilhems -	39.9	39.7	39.7	44.0	47.2	42.28
Moka -	42.4	43.4	42.8	46.7	46.6	43.08
Black River -	29.7	26.6	27.3	27.6	32.9	29.3
Whole Colony	38.1	37.0	36.8	40.4	42.6	39.27

It will be seen that Plaines Wilhems has the highest birth-rate, Moka being second and Black River last.

The rates for Flacq, Grand Port, Savanne, Plaines Wilhems and Black River for 1925 are the highest for the five years under review. Of the nine districts, Black River has in 1925, for the first time in the five year period 1921–25 shown an excess of births over deaths although the total deaths for the 5 years exceed the total births.

In Plaines Wilhems and Moka the births have constantly exceeded deaths during the period under review; so would have been the case with Rivière du Rempart had not the deaths exceeded the births by 4 in 1922.

EARLY NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

Under existing legislation a delay of 45 days is granted for the registration of births.

The necessity from the public health point of view, of making compulsory the early notification of births has been urged very strongly. Close and immediate investigation of factors affecting the life of the community is extremely difficult and unavoidably delayed otherwise.

Legal power in that respect is now an accomplished fact (Ordinance No. 14 of 1925). The early notice required is in addition to, and not in substitution for, the declaration which has to be made to the Registrar General or his Civil Status Officers.

DEATHS

During the year 1925, the total number of deaths was 9,327 (4,736 males, 4,591 females; 2,776 in the General and 6,551 in the Indian population) or 1,231 less than in 1924 and 1,451 less than in 1923.

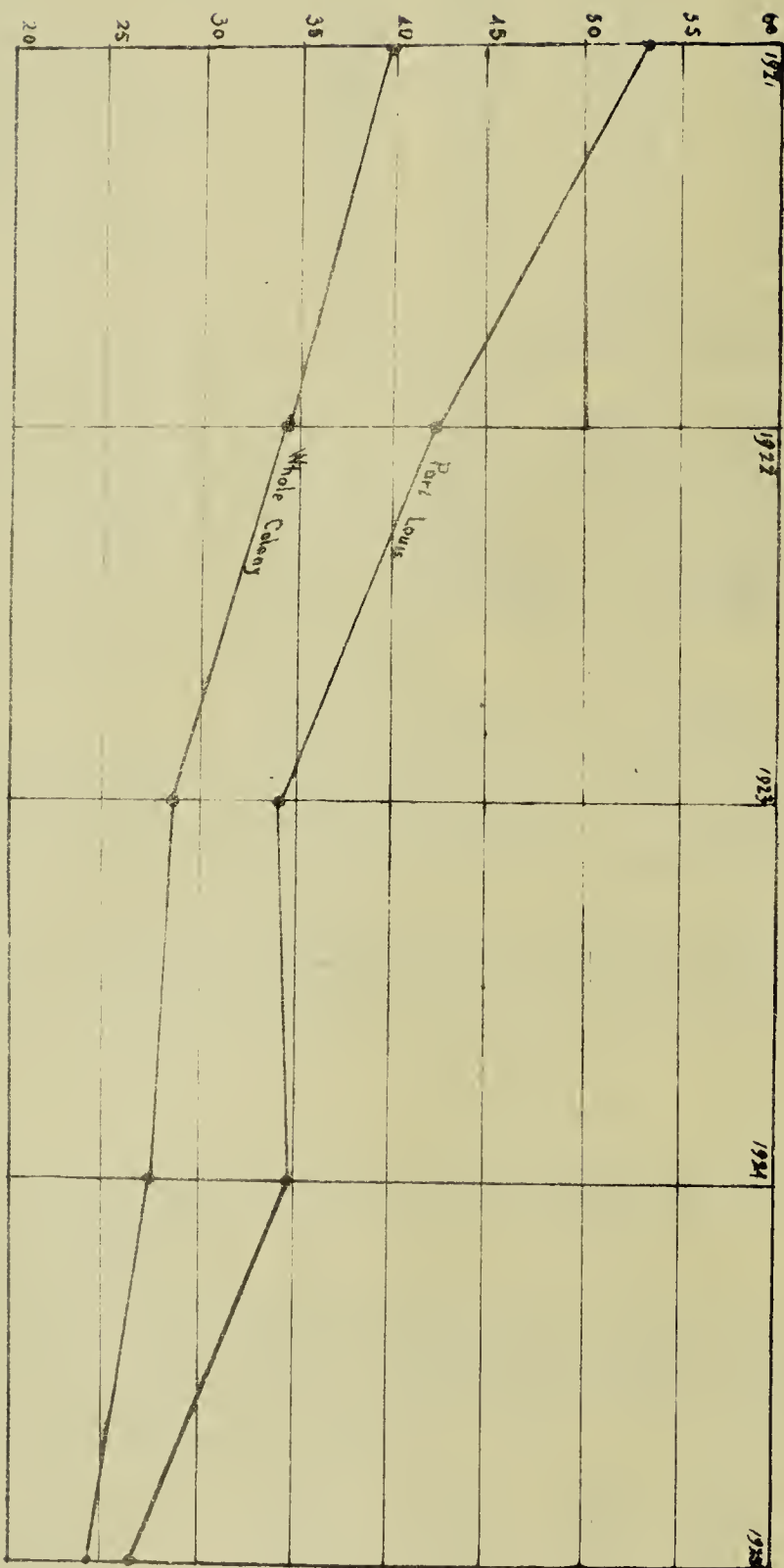
The death-rate for the Colony was 24.1 ‰ compared with 27.7 ‰ for 1924, 28.5 for 1923, 34.5 for 1922, 32.7 for the quinquennial period preceding 1925 and 31.1 for the five-year period 1921–25. The month of maximum mortality was January.

The following table shows the district death-rates* yearly for the period 1921–25 and the average rates for the same period :—

District	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Average ‰
Port Louis ...	53.2	42.6	34.1	34.6	26.1	39.8
Pamplemousses ...	40.9	39.0	34.1	30.5	26.5	34.5
Rivière du Rempart...	35.5	37.3	27.9	26.8	23.3	29.6
Flacq ...	39.4	35.3	27.8	28.1	24.8	31.36
Grand Port ...	42.9	40.8	34.6	31.0	26.0	35.3
Savanne ...	42.4	29.4	25.7	24.8	24.1	27.77
Plaines Wilhems ...	30.5	23.8	21.0	20.6	19.4	23.0
Moka ...	40.9	32.1	25.8	24.3	21.8	28.0
Black River ...	41.8	35.1	30.5	36.5	32.4	35.9
Whole Colony ...	40.3	34.5	28.5	27.7	24.1	31.1

* These are crude death-rates i.e. deaths irrespective of any consideration as to whether they are indigenous to the district or imported from another district.

Graph showing the Death Rates of Portland and the whole colony from 1921-1925



The annexed graph shows the death-rates for Port Louis and the whole Colony from 1921 to 1925.

The death-rate for the whole Colony (24.1 ‰) is the *lowest since* 1870 (22.6 ‰).

For Port Louis, the rate (26.1 ‰) is the *lowest since* 1871. In considering the district death-rates for 1925, it will be seen that Black River has the highest figure and Plaines Wilhems the lowest. The rates for 1925, for all the districts except Black River are the lowest for the five years under review. Rivière du Rempart tends to come down to the comparatively low rate of 23.1 ‰ for 1920.

The following tables are of interest in showing the rates of a few countries and British Colonies in comparison with this Colony in respect to Births, Deaths and density of population :—

Country or Colony	Density of population per square mile	Birth-rate ‰	Death-rate ‰	Remarks
Belgium ...	658	23.7	15.2	} From Whitaker's Almanack, 1926.
England ...	701	23.1	13.7	
Great Britain and Ireland	390	20.7	13.1	
England and Wales ...	...	18.8	12.2	1924 (provisional figures)
France ...	187	18.7	18.4	} From Whitaker's Almanack, 1926.
Germany ...	348	29.8	16.2	
Japan ...	339	34.2	21.9	
Fiji ...	...	31.86	15.93	1922
Tasmania ...	...	25.07	9.89	1924
Jamaica ...	...	32.28	33.90	1921
British Guiana ...	...	32.4	25.6	1924
Trinidad ...	189	33.66	20.02	1924
Seychelles ...	...	29.97	14.62	1924—Most of the tropical diseases are unknown in Seychelles
Ceylon ...	...	36.79	25.29	1924
Straits Settlements ...	...	30.47	30.68	1922
Mauritius ...	546.8	42.6	24.1	1925

The number of deaths ascribed to malaria and malarial cachexia (highest death-producing factors in Mauritius) is 1,634 against 1,732 in 1924, 1979 in 1923 and 3,526 in 1922, or a percentage of total deaths of 17.5 in 1925, 16.4 in 1924, 18.3 in 1923 and 27.2 in 1922.

No doubt can be attached to the improvement in the health conditions which these figures denote if it is remembered that in Port Louis no death is registered unless certified by a medical practitioner.

The comparison of the number of deaths due to malaria in Port Louis, every year from 1918, can therefore but enhance the facts revealed by the returns for the whole Colony :—

DEATHS FROM MALARIA IN PORT LOUIS

1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
400	518	339	333	371	169	120	98

The returns for 1925 for the various districts are as under :—

Districts	Deaths from	
	Malaria	Malarial cachexia
Port Louis ...	98	...
Pamplemousses ...	128	2
Rivière du Rempart ...	142	...
Flacq ...	420	4
Grand Port ...	296	6
Savanne ...	138	...
Plaines Wilhems ...	63	7
Moka ...	152	2
Black River ...	175	1
Whole Colony ...	1,612	22

The next high causes of death are Pneumonia and Broncho-Pneumonia; 785 in 1925 against 1,296 in 1924, 1,393 in 1923 and 1,538 in 1922; and diseases of early infancy; 1,090 against 1,075 in 1924, 1,026 in 1923, 1,002 in 1922 and 1,068 in 1921.

The following table, with the figures for 1924 inserted for purposes of easy comparison, summarises the causes of death and the rates in the usual groups* :—

Group	No. of deaths		Rate per ‰	
	1924	1925	1924	1925
I. General Diseases ...	4,300	3,608	11.3	9.3
II. Diseases of the nervous system and of organs of the special senses ...	425	370	1.1	1.0
III. Diseases of the circulatory system ...	223	150	.6	.4
IV. Diseases of the respiratory system ...	1,947	1,383	5.1	3.5
V. Diseases of the digestive system ...	923	1,079	2.4	2.8
VI. Non-venereal diseases of the genito-urinary system and annexa ...	515	530	1.3	1.4
VII. The puerperal state ...	260	178	.7	.5
VIII. Diseases of the skin and of the cellular tissue ..	44	49	.1	.1
IX. Diseases of the bones and of the organs of locomotion ...	11	8	.0	.0
X. Malformations ...	4	7	.0	.0
XI. Diseases of early infancy ...	1,075	1,090	2.8	2.8
XII. Old age ...	216	219	.6	.6
XIII. affections produced by external causes ...	130	178	.3	.5
XIV. Ill-defined... ..	485	478	1.4	1.2
All causes ...	10,558	9,327	27.7	24.1

The more notable causes of death were as under (the figures in 1924 are also given for purposes of comparison) :—

Diseases	No. of deaths		Percentage of total deaths	
	1924	1925	1924	1925
Malaria and malarial cachexia ...	1,732	1,634	16.4	17.5
Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia ..	1,296	785	12.3	8.4
Influenza ...	760	347	7.2	3.7
Diseases of early infancy ...	1,075	1,090	10.2	11.8
Pulmonary tuberculosis ...	869	817	8.2	8.7
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	547	661	5.2	7.1
Bronchitis ...	537	494	5.1	5.3
Old age ...	216	219	2.0	2.3
Dysentery ...	336	298	3.2	3.2
Albuminuria, Bright's disease Nephritis and Uræmia	485	494	4.6	5.3
Debility (over 1 year & under 70) ...	335	281	3.17	3.0
Plague ...	146	65	1.38	.7
Heart diseases (organic) ...	148	106	1.4	1.1
The puerperal state ...	260	178	2.5	1.9

Deaths due to preventable diseases i.e. diseases due to faulty sanitary conditions, overcrowding, soil infection, defective or infected water supplies, numbered 3,790 or 40.6% of total deaths against 3,906 and 37% in 1924, 4,227 and 39.2% in 1923 and 6,343 and 48.9% in 1922.

Deaths due to infantile diarrhoea and infantile convulsions are not included in this figure.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Infantile Mortality rate is the annual number of deaths of infants under one year for every thousand live births registered during the same year. It is considered as affording the most reliable test of the general sanitary conditions of a district and is therefore a most important index from the public health point of view.

The rate for 1925 was 119.7 ‰ as against 129.6‰, 139.4‰, 147.9‰ and 176.7 ‰ in 1924, 1923, 1922 and 1921 respectively.

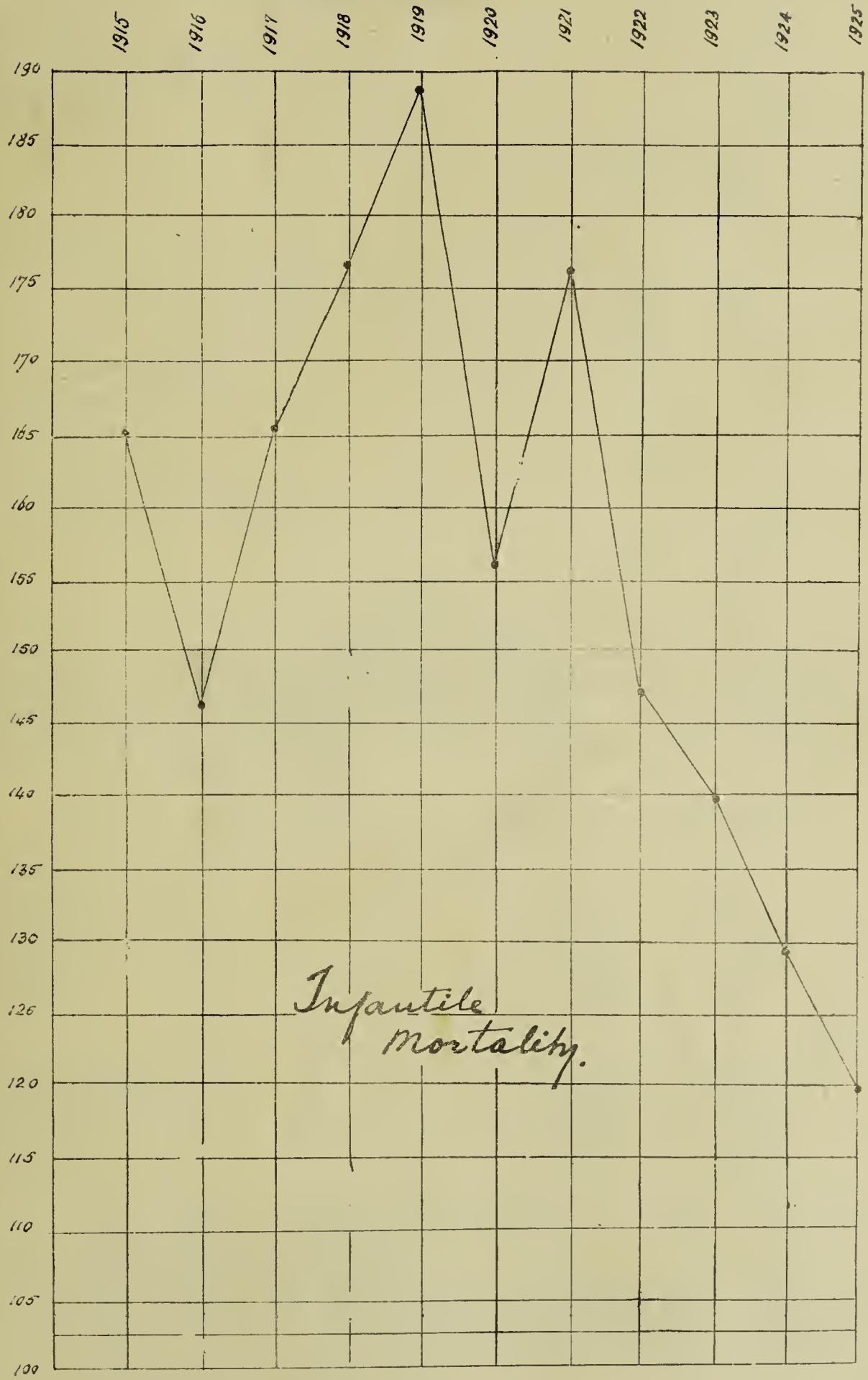
The annexed graph shows the variations in the infantile mortality for the period 1915–1925. A steady improvement characterises the period 1921–25, although the figure for 1925 cannot but be considered still heavy.

THE DEATHS UNDER 5 YEARS ARE DISTRIBUTED AS UNDER :—

				Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	1,049	932	1,981
1 year and under 2 years ...	...	...	...	269	272	541
2 years „ 3 „ ...	...	...	...	174	206	380
3 years „ 4 „ ...	...	...	...	104	118	222
4 years „ 5 „ ...	...	...	...	72	83	155
Total under 5 years ...				1,668	1,611	3,279

*The grouping of causes of death here followed is that adopted by Registrar General in his annual report, in accordance with the classification adopted by the Registrar General of England. Influenza, Whooping cough, Tuberculosis are included under General Diseases (Group I).

1915 - 1925





The causes of those deaths are as follows:—

Causes of death	Under 1 year	1 to under 5 years
General diseases	324	555
Diseases of the nervous system and organs of the special senses ...	47	79
Diseases of the circulatory system	—	—
„ „ respiratory system	239	224
„ „ digestive system	240	295
Non venereal diseases of the genito-urinary system and annexa ...	2	16
Diseases of the skin and cellular tissue	4	4
„ „ bones and organs of locomotion	1	—
Malformations	7	—
Diseases of early infancy	1,090	—
Affections produced by external causes	1	—
III-defined causes	26	98
All causes	1,981	1,298

istribution of the deaths to diseases of early infancy and comparison with 1924 :—

Designation of diseases and accidents	1924	1925
Infantile atrophy, debility and marasmus ...	1,035	1,036
Premature birth	23	28
Icterus neonatorum	4	2
Atelectasis	6	14
Injuries at birth	6	8
Lack of care	1	1
Diseases of umbilicus &c.	—	1
	1,075	1,090

Having regard to the total number of deaths for the year, viz : 9,327, the proportion of deaths under 5 years to total deaths viz : 35.2% shows an increase. It was 30.1% in 1924, 33.3% in 1923 and 29.5% in 1922.

The table hereunder allows an interesting comparison between Infantile Mortality rates, of different countries and colonies.

Country, Town or Colony	Year *	Infantile mortality rate	Remarks
Edinburgh (Scotland)	1921	96	—
Scotland... ..	1919	102.0	—
England and Wales	1921	83	—
Tasmania	1924	54.99	—
Jamaica	1921	270	—
Ceylon	1924	235	Rate for the 33 principle towns.
British Guiana	1924	165	—
Straits Settlements	1922	195.22	—
Trinidad	1924	124.07	—
Mauritius	1925	119.7	—

The most important causes of Infantile Mortality are, as usual, congenital debility improper dieting, neglect and premature birth.

Many children at birth are mere weaklings† and are doomed to early death owing to the early marriages amongst Indians and child-bearing at immature age, work of expectant mothers in the fields and the usual hardships and privations in the poorer classes. These causes *per se* are sufficient to bring about death during the later months of foetus or of infants born during later months of gestation.

Infantile mortality is in every country usually higher among males than among females, except in the case of whooping cough. This is borne out by the figures for 1925 given above, the ratio being 125 to 111.

The highest mortality in the age period 1 year—under 5 years occurred as usual in the period 1 year—under 2 years, gradually decreasing.

* The latest figures available locally are here given.

† The average weight of children at birth appears to be 2 kilog : in Mauritius.

STILL BIRTHS

There is no legal definition of still-birth in Mauritius either laid down in the Law or the Civil Code. As a result of investigations made, it appears that errors occasionally arise in respect of children born alive and dying a few minutes after, who are declared and registered as still-births.

The number of still-births registered during 1925 is as under, showing a decrease :

Districts	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	1924	1925	1924	1925	1924	1925
Port Louis ...	97	94	62	63	159	157
Pamplemousses ...	88	67	69	75	157	142
Rivière du Rempart ...	95	69	66	42	161	111
Flacq ...	137	126	108	102	245	228
Grand Port ...	142	130	121	82	263	212
Savanne ...	85	71	69	77	154	148
Plaines Wilhems ...	129	152	110	107	239	259
Moka ...	102	73	73	60	175	133
Black River ...	37	26	18	23	55	49
Total :—	912	808	696	631	1,608	1,439

It is equivalent to 87.0 %₀₀ of live births for the same period against 104.2 in 1924, 112.2 in 1923 and 120.3 in 1922.

The still-births are distributed as follows for the two populations :—

			Males	Females	Total
General Population ...	...	...	184	121	305
Indian „ ...	...	...	624	510	1,134
Total	...	...	808	631	1,439

II.—Meteorological Statistics

The table hereunder summarises a few of the meteorological observations made at the Royal Alfred Observatory which offer interest from the public health point of view.

VALUES OF METEOROLOGICAL ELEMENTS AT THE ROYAL ALFRED OBSERVATORY, MAURITIUS, FOR THE YEAR 1925 AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1924.

Scale : Centigrade.

		Air Temperature					Relative Humidity					Mean Dew Point	Mean Vapour Tension mb.	Rainfall millim.
		Absolute maximum	Date	Absolute minimum	Date	Mean	Absolute maximum	Date	Absolute minimum	Date	Mean			
		°		°		°	%		%		%	°		
January	{ 1924 ...	32.7	15	17.0	7	25.3	99	27	50	15	76.3	20.8	24.4	314.2
	{ 1925 ...	31.0	26	20.1	4	25.8	96	6	64	3	76.9	21.4	25.2	149.9
February	{ 1924 ...	31.1	14	20.4	29	26.4	97	2	60	25	79.6	21.7	25.8	114.5
	{ 1925 ...	31.4	14, 17	20.0	10, 27	25.6	95	5	44	11	73.4	20.5	23.9	23.6
March	{ 1924 ...	30.4	16	19.0	19	25.5	95	1	50	16	77.0	21.1	24.8	272.3
	{ 1925 ...	31.0	12	18.7	12	24.9	99	12	49	11	78.0	20.7	24.2	123.5
April	{ 1924 ...	29.4	7	16.0	25	24.1	96	22	50	23	81.5	20.7	24.2	78.8
	{ 1925 ...	28.9	6	18.7	30	24.1	97	12	53	3	79.2	20.3	23.5	263.1
May	{ 1924 ...	27.1	2	15.9	8	21.1	97	2	60	7	71.0	15.6	17.6	78.8
	{ 1925 ...	28.4	1	17.3	13	22.9	99	26	56	15	82.8	19.7	22.9	56.5
June	{ 1924 ...	25.0	Often	15.9	16	20.6	100	21, 30	53	26	77.5	16.5	18.6	37.2
	{ 1925 ...	26.4	17	12.	24	20.6	97	23	48	7	77.5	16.5	18.6	53.6
July	{ 1924 ...	25.4	1, 11	14.7	41	20.3	98	9	51	24	77.0	16.1	18.1	65.1
	{ 1925 ...	25.8	7, 8	14.2	14, 19	20.4	94	18	50	1	75.8	16.0	18.0	60.8
August	{ 1924 ...	25.7	3, 4	14.0	24	20.3	99	9	51	24	78.4	16.4	18.5	30.6
	{ 1925 ...	25.0	8, 18	12.3	21	19.6	96	16	42	29	71.3	14.2	16.1	29.2
September	{ 1924 ...	26.9	29	12.3	16	20.2	98	27	42	30	70.5	14.6	16.6	27.2
	{ 1925 ...	27.6	16	16.1	26, 27	21.4	97	12	45	3	71.9	16.1	18.1	16.3
October	{ 1924 ...	27.4	11	12.9	22	20.7	97	19	38	4	70.3	15.1	17.1	82.1
	{ 1925 ...	30.6	19	15.8	31	22.4	93	26	40	31	66.8	15.9	17.9	26.9
November	{ 1924 ...	30.2	9	14.3	2	23.1	98	23	39	23	71.6	17.6	20.0	36.3
	{ 1925 ...	29.8	28	15.0	1	23.7	96	26	47	18	73.8	18.7	21.4	144.2
December	{ 1924 ...	32.4	7	18.0	15	24.8	98	29	39	11	73.6	19.7	22.9	180.6
	{ 1925 ...	31.1	30	20.0	3, 30	25.8	97	2	48	7	75.4	21.1	24.8	123.3

III.—Midwifery and Child Welfare

It may be said that steps have been taken to reduce infantile mortality in Mauritius since the creation of the de Chazal Fund in 1916. The origin of that Fund is as Follows : Dr. E. L. de Chazal, C.B.E., Superintendent, Victoria Hospital, since the opening of that institution, in 1916 generously presented the Mauritius Government the sum of Rs. 100,000 with the request that it should be invested and the resulting income devoted to a scheme of Maternity and Child Welfare.

The measures taken at the outset consisted chiefly in the proper and regular training of midwives. From 1918, the year in which the first midwives trained under the de Chazal scheme qualified, to the 31st December, 1925, over 55 midwives have been granted a certificate after successful training at the Civil, Barkly Asylum* and Victoria Hospitals (save a few who were trained in other public hospitals), or an average of 7 yearly.

Appendix IX gives the result of the examinations held in 1925 for the certificate of "midwife."

From July 1923, Government provides yearly a sum of about Rs. 5,000 for the training of midwives. That vote has allowed the admission of a much larger number of pupil midwives yearly than the fixed number of 10 which the revenue from the de Chazal Fund permitted beforehand.

The services comprised under the term "Child Welfare work" may be grouped as under :—

(a) Crèches, (b) Qualified Midwives, (c) Health Visitors.

CRÊCHES.

The year 1925 has been an unfortunate one for the Crèches. It has witnessed the closing of three of these institutions viz : the St. Louis, the Laundry (Immigration and Poor Law Department) and the Riche-en Eau Estate Crèches.

Crèches in this Colony are of two kinds :—

(i) Crèches giving admission to infants deprived of good food, proper care and cleanliness.

Two such Crèches existed during the greater part of the year under review : the Bon Secours Convent Crèche and the St. Louis Crèche, both in the town of Port Louis.

The Bon Secours Convent Crèche is not maintained by Government. 27 children were dealt with there in 1925. One child died from "Dentition."

The St. Louis Crèche, started in 1916 was closed on the 24th October, 1925. It was maintained partly on a subsidy from Poor Law (Government) funds and partly on a grant from the de Chazal Fund. It was managed by Sisters of Mercy under the direct supervision of the Immigration and Poor Law Department and received Medical attendance from the Medical staff of the Civil Hospital on whose grounds the Crèche was situated.

22 children were admitted to the Crèche during the period January 1st—October 24th. 8 deaths occurred ascribed as under : Infantile debility (3), Bronchitis (2), Gastro-enteritis (2) and Athrepsia (Parrot's disease) (1).

Two of the children who died of Infantile debility were twins seven days old, weighing each 2 lbs.

One other child who died of infantile debility, and one who died of bronchitis were likewise twins brought to the Crèche in a debilitated condition.)

The number of beds was 26.

Only two children were in the Crèche on its being closed.

The main reason for the closing of this crèche may be stated to be : the difficulty of securing in the Port Louis Crèche proper trained staff for the establishment especially in view of the putting into operation of a comprehensive scheme of Child Welfare work throughout the island gradually, and the fact that the Crèche was not being availed of, the number of children in the Crèche having fallen down regularly.

(ii) Crèches giving admission to children as day inmates while their mothers are at work. Two such crèches existed during part of the year : the Riche-en-Eau Sugar Estate Crèche in the district of Grand Port and the Immigration and Poor Law Department Laundry Crèche in Port Louis.

The former, inaugurated a few years ago by Mr. M. de Rochecouste, principal owner of the estate was closed in the course of the year under review. The main reasons which led to that decision appear to be :—

(a) The Crèche was started as a tentative measure for 3 or 4 years and its continuation was to depend on the results obtained.

(b) It had been found that the women who left their children at the Crèche, instead of working on the Estate went to adjoining ones, so that Riche-en-Eau was actually spending money to the advantage of competing neighbours.

(c) It had been found also that several of the women who left their children at the Crèche were not deserving and took advantage of it to live their immoral life more easily.

Under those conditions, the Estate Authorities naturally did not consider it advantageous either materially or morally to incur the heavy expenditure connected with the working of the crèche.

*Closed on the opening of Victoria Hospital in July 1922.

It is to be hoped that, under better conditions, public-spirited action on the lines followed by Mr. M. de Rochecouste may be taken up and prove beneficial both to the estates and the community at large.

The Immigration and Poor Law Department laundry Crèche started in 1922, which was attended daily by a small number of children (averaging 5 whose mothers did laundry work at the Immigration laundry, where the washing of linen for several public hospitals is done, was, during the year under review, absorbed in the Crèche St. Louis which in its turn was closed on the 24th October, 1925.

QUALIFIED MIDWIVES FOR CASES OF NORMAL LABOUR

As part of the de Chazal Scheme, qualified Midwives have since 1918 been placed on sugar estates in various districts. They attend to midwifery cases on the estates and in the vicinity. They are paid a fixed salary by the month half by the estate or estates on which they are placed and half by the de Chazal Fund.

On the 31st December 1925, 9 Midwives were placed on 10 sugar estates situated in 5 districts. A few other qualified midwives are available for work on application. It had been proposed to appoint as many qualified midwives as might be necessary for gratuitous attendance on the poor in every district and township. A start had actually been made in Curepipe and Beau Bassin—Rose Hill by the appointment of 2 midwives early in 1924. They were to be paid fees by Government for every pauper case attended, and Rs. 1,500 had been provided on the Estimates of this Department for 1925-26 on that account.

Unfortunately the object of the scheme has been defeated by the unwillingness of the lower classes to have recourse to the Government midwives though their services are given gratuitously.

The principal reasons for this prejudice are that the unqualified "sages-femmes" accept for a meagre remuneration to perform in addition to the midwifery duties, the washing of linen and domestic duties for the periods during which the mother is confined to bed, and also that modern hygienic principles and hygienic principles at all are not believed in by the large mass of the lower classes.

Hence, until the education of the population has been achieved in that respect by persuasion and propaganda, and specially until the number of qualified midwives available is large enough to cope with every midwifery case, there can be no question of passing legislation prohibiting the practice of Midwifery by unqualified women, without causing grave hardships to the lower classes of the population.

No effort is spared with a view to realising these conditions in the immediate future, when only such of the unqualified women now practising as midwives who will submit themselves to training and who shall show aptitude, will be authorised to practise.

Notices calling all persons practising as midwives to make themselves known, published in 1924, disclosed the following numbers for the various districts.

District	Number of unqualified midwives
Port Louis ...	58
Pamplemousses ...	68
Rivière du Rempart ...	46
Flacq ...	131
Grand Port ...	65
Savanne ...	47
Black River ...	19
Plaines Wilhems ...	23
Moka ...	61
Whole Colony ...	518

The number of persons actually practising as midwives is undoubtedly larger than that, many midwives having probably failed to have their names recorded. In confirmation of the assertion that about 85% at least of those midwives were utterly unqualified and might become dangerous, circumstances permitting, a Board reported after examination, that those practising in Plaines Wilhems were, as a class, not fit for the necessary training.

HEALTH VISITORS

The scheme under which Health Visitors were originally intended to work comprises the appointment of a lady-doctor. No decision has yet been taken by Government on the subject.

Two Mauritian trained Nurses were at the origin to undergo special training (at Government expense) in South Africa, as Health Visitors. One has finished her training and is available for service in connection with the putting into operation of the new Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme which will be referred to in the course of this Chapter.

Decision has been reserved "pro tem" in respect of the training of a second nurse.

Child Care and Protection.—There exists no special hospital for children. Periodical medical examination of children attending the primary schools is done, but it is not compulsory. The laws in force in the Colony provide for the admission of destitute orphans and children to Government or private institutions until they have attained the age of 12 and 14 as boys and girls respectively. As there are at present no Government institution available to receive them, they are directed to convents and orphanages at the cost of Government. The latter (private institutions) also receive directly orphans and destitute children. Deserted and widowed mothers having children to support are relieved by the Poor Law Department when they have no liable relatives or responsible partly bound by law to support them.

Neglect of and offence against children are punished by imprisonment or fine. The Poor Law Office provides protection and relief to any such children and recovers the expenses so incurred from the responsible parties.

Baby Show.—A Baby Show was held under the distinguished patronage of Lady Read, wife of Sir H. J. Read, K.C.M.G., C.B., Governor of Mauritius, in the hall of the Union Catholique, in Port Louis, on the 20th October, 1925, on the lines of the first Baby Show held in 1924. The Baby show was under the direction of the Protector of Immigrants.

The show was restricted to infants below a certain age limit, born in Port Louis and whose parents were earning wages not exceeding a fixed sum. Several substantial money-prizes offered by Lady Read, Mr. J. Tranquille (then Junior Member for Port Louis), the Mayor of Port Louis (Hon. S. Fouquereaux), the Deputy Inspector General of Police (Lt.-Col. Deane, O.B.E.) the Poor Law Commissioner and Protector of Immigrants (Hon. L. Collet) Mr. D. Lallah, (now an elected member of the Legislative council), and the Director of the Medical and Health Department, were distributed to parents of the best healthy-looking babies, and nominal prizes presented by Dr. E. L. de Chazal, C.B.E. were given to parents of all healthy-looking babies normally constituted.

The show was well attended. 154 babies were presented for competition and 108 were accepted. 6 first and 6 second prizes were awarded. 85 prizes were awarded to babies normally constituted and 6 twins, out of 8 presented, were awarded prizes.

It was a double success, firstly in that it focussed the public attention, undoubtedly not without far-reaching effects, on the necessity of working, on good methods, for the welfare of children and secondly in that it stimulated interest towards everything relating to Public Health generally.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SOCIETY.—CHILD WELFARE SCHEME.

A Committee, under the presidency of Lady Read, was appointed in May 1925 by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into and report upon existing arrangements in regard to Child Welfare and its associated Branches and to make recommendations for the restarting of a Maternity and Child Welfare Society.

The Committee appointed a sub-committee composed of Drs. T. B. Gilchrist, Director of the Medical and Health Department, J. B. Kirk, Medical Officer of Health for Port Louis, and F. A. Rouget, O.B.E., Superintendent of the Civil Hospital.

The Committee submitted its report in October, 1925.

The recommendations may be summed up as under:—

- (a) Appointment of trained midwives to such hospitals and dispensaries throughout the Colony as the Medical Director may consider necessary. The principal duties of those midwives to be: to attend all pauper confinements; to visit as far as possible, all cases where an unqualified midwife had been employed and to report to the Government Medical Officers any case of malpractice or neglect to provide free transport to hospital for all pauper confinement cases that cannot, in their own opinion, be treated in their own homes; to recommend to the Government Medical Officers when free milk should be supplied to indigent, expectant or nursing mothers; to keep a record of all cases they attend.
- (b) Appointment of a Government Health Visitor to visit and report to the Medical Director on the work of the Government midwives.
- (c) The recommendations referred to under (a) and (b) and the definition of duties to be regarded as temporary and provisional pending the formation of and the receipt of suggestions from the Maternity and Child Welfare Society.
- (d) Legislation to be introduced on the following lines:—
 - (i) No person to be allowed to perform the functions of a midwife who has not, with the written authority of the Medical Director, registered her name as:

"a midwife" or "a labour attendant."
 - (ii) No person not qualified as a Midwife to be allowed to register after the expiration of thirty one days from the coming into force of the new legislation.
 - (iii) All midwives considered by the Medical Director to be eligible, to be licensed as such.

- (iv) No license to practise as midwife to be issued to any person not qualified as such ; all persons not so qualified and who within the prescribed period have registered as Labour attendants to be required to be qualified as such within such time as the Medical Director, having regard to the number of qualified midwives available, may consider expedient ; any person not so qualifying to be immediately struck off the Register of Labour Attendants.
- (v) The Medical Director to have power to refuse, suspend or cancel any such registration or license and to restrict the right of practice to any district, locality or area and to call upon any registered person to report each case attended by her to the nearest hospital or dispensary.

In regard to a Maternity and Child Welfare Society, the majority of the Committee were of the opinion that its formation should be left to private enterprise and would be most effective if it were composed of ladies and independent of all Government control. Such a Society the President of the Committee, Lady Read, has succeeded to form towards the end of the year under review.

Provision has been made in the draft Estimates for 1926-27 for a subsidy of Rs. 5,000 to the proposed Maternity and Child Welfare Society.

Concrete proposals relative to the appointment of trained midwives as recommended by the Committee referred to above have been submitted as under to be carried out into effect in 1926 :—

1 midwife to be attached to each of the following public hospitals: Civil, Mahébourg, Souillac, Flacq and Poudre d'Or and one at Rose Hill, in the district of Plaine Wilhems, attached to the home started early in 1926 by the Maternity and Child Welfare Society.

It is further proposed to submit to the Council of Government a draft bill embodying the recommendations relative to the practice of midwifery.

IV.—Prevalence of Sickness and Recurrence of Particular Diseases

The following table shows the number of cases treated in the public hospitals and at the dispensaries for the last five years :—

		1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Average
Hospital Admissions	...	19,127	19,337	17,069	18,663	19,810	18,801
Dispensary cases	...	60,671	85,638	53,225	52,641	54,296	61,294
Outdoor cases	...	5,066	6,491	12,032	15,570	19,621	11,756
Total	...	84,864	111,466	82,326	86,874	93,727	91,851

These figures indicate an increase under every heading.

NOTIFIABLE CONTAGIOUS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Ordinance No. 47 of 1898 provided for the compulsory notification of Plague, Cholera, Choleraic Diarrhoea, Small-pox, Yellow-Fever, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, Measles, Scarlatina, or Scarlet Fever, and the fevers known by any of the following names: Typhoid or Enteric, Typhus, Relapsing or Continued and Puerperal; and traumatic Erysipelas and of any other disease that may be added thereto by regulations.

By regulations published under G.N. No. 65 of 15.4.03, cerebro-spinal meningitis has been made notifiable; so also the diseases known as "Varicella" or Chicken Pox by regulations published under G.N. No. 46 of 17.3.13 and Spanish Influenza by regulations published under G.N. No. 153 of 11.6.20.

Under Ordinance No. 47 of 1925 (The Public Health Ordinance) which came into force on the 31st December, 1925, "infectious or contagious disease" means any of the following diseases :—small-pox (including the form known as "amaas" or alastrim and any diseases resembling small-pox, except chicken-pox), scarlatina or scarlet fever, typhus fever, diphtheria or membranous croup, erysipelas, puerperal fever (including septicaemia, pyaemia, septic pelvic cellulitis, or other serious septic condition occurring during the puerperal state), Asiatic cholera, enteric or typhoid fever (including para-typhoid fevers), epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis or cerebro-spinal fever, acute poliomyelitis, leprosy plague, anthrax, glanders, rabies, Malta fever, or undulant fever sleeping sickness or human trypanosomiasis, and any other disease declared by Regulations to be an infectious or contagious disease. For notification purposes under that Ordinance, all forms of tuberculosis which are clinically recognizable apart from reaction to the tuberculin test are held to be infectious or contagious diseases.

The enactments repealed by Ordinance No. 47 of 1925 having been in force for practically the whole year 1925, reference to notifiable and non-notifiable diseases is made in this report as under those enactments.

The appended table shows the incidence of the various notifiable diseases, exclusive of plague, according to the districts or sanitary sections:—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS OR CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUSIVE OF PLAGUE)—1925.

Diseases	Port Louis	Pamplemousses	Rivière du Rempart	Flacq	Grand Port	Savanne	Moka	Black River	B. Bassin-Rose Hill—4 Bornes	Phoenix-Vacoas	Curepipe	Total
Typhoid fever ...	20	6	2	11	11	17	16	2	14	3	20	122
Puerperal fever and puerperal septicaemia ...	11	1	...	7	2	1	1	...	8	...	9	40
Erysipelas ...	4	1	1	4	...	2	1	1	6	...	5	25
Diphtheria ..	1	1	1	1	3	1	9	1	22	6	22	68
Cerebro-spinal meningitis ...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles ...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	4	9
Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	4
Total ...	38	10	4	24	17	21	27	5	55	9	60	270

Notification was received in April 1925 of a case of scarlet fever on board S.S. Ilford, in Port Louis harbour.

PLAGUE

That plague is an endemic disease in Mauritius is easily shown by going over the available statistics since 1899, the year when the disease was first detected in the Colony.

The following statement shows the number of cases, deaths and percentage of deaths since the outbreak of plague in the Colony:—

Year	Cases	Deaths	Percentage of deaths	Year	Cases	Deaths	Percentage of deaths
1899	- 1,416	- 1,117	- 78.9	1912	- 656	- 541	- 82.3
1900	- 796	- 593	- 74.5	1913	- 313	- 261	- 83.4
1901	- 1,093	- 805	- 73.7	1914	- 125	- 111	- 88.8
1902	- 506	- 384	- 76.3	1915	- 33	- 25	- 75.8
1903	- 1,395	- 1,035	- 74.2	1916	- 22	- 15	- 68.2
1904	- 568	- 449	- 79.0	1917	- 8	- 7	- 87.5
1905	- 308	- 251	- 81.5	1918	No case notified or detected.		
1906	- 434	- 344	- 79.3	1919			
1907	- 224	- 178	- 79.5	1920			
1908	- 167	- 137	- 82.0	1921	- 375	- 297	- 79.2
1909	- 457	- 333	- 72.9	1922	- 98	- 75	- 76.5
1910	- 731	- 553	- 75.6	1923	- 139	- 118	- 84.8
1911	- 173	- 131	- 75.7	1924	- 161	- 144	- 89.4
				1925	- 74	- 65	- 87.8

Plague deaths (registered at the Civil Statns offices during the year) represent .7% of total deaths in 1925 against 1.38% in 1924.

It will be seen that the percentage of deaths in 1925 is still high.

There is however no cause for alarm when it is known that 36 of the cases were found *post-mortem*, while the deaths were being controlled by officers of this Department prior to registration. Only 38 cases therefore probably received adequate treatment, of which 4 were *in extremis* when notification reached this Department. Of the 34 remaining cases, 9 recovered giving as percentage of deaths 73.5 on the cases notified before death and before being *in extremis*.

The cases are distributed as under, according to the type of disease.

District	Bubonic		Septicæmic		Pneumonic		Type not recorded		Total		
	Cured	Died	Cured	Died	Cured	Died	Cured	Died	Cured	Died	Total
Port Louis ...	3	37	...	8	...	...	...	...	3	45	48
Pamplemousses ...	5	8	...	2	...	...	...	...	5	10	15
R. du Rempart ...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Flacq ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Moka ...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Plaines Wilhens ...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	3	4
Total ...	9	49	...	14	...	1	...	1	9	65	74
Percentage of deaths ...	84.5%		100%		100%		100%		87.8%		
Comparison with 1924—Total in 1924	16	78	...	57	..	9	...	...	16	144	161*
Percentage of deaths ...	82.1		100		100		...		89.4		

* In 1924, one patient was under treatment on 31st December.

TREATMENT OF PLAGUE

The methods of treatment employed vary according to the type of the case. They may be classed as:—

Specific i.e. treatment by the intravenous administration of anti-plague serum and *General*, the administration of stimulants and other appropriate remedies e.g. electrargol.

On the suggestion of Dr. A. Balfour, mercuro-chrome, 220 soluble, has been received. Neo-kharsivan, which tried by Dr. C. H. Marshall, Senior Medical Officer, Uganda and R. S. Achhru Ram, Assistant Surgeon is stated to have given most striking results, has also been received.

No suitable opportunity occurred however during the year under review for the administration of either preparation. As will be seen in the second of the tables appended, only six cases were treated at the Grand River North West lazaret, all of which were not considered suitable for treatment by Mercuro-chrome or Neo-kharsivan.

The tables appended show: (a) the number of plague cases and deaths, monthly for every district, (b) the classification of the cases according to place of treatment, (c) the age incidence, (d) the sex incidence and (e) the race incidence of the disease.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PLAGUE CASES AND DEATHS IN THE COLONY DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Months	Port Louis			Pamplemousses			Rivière du Rempart			Flacq			Plaines Wilhems			Moka			Total		
	Cured	Died	Total	Cured	Died	Total	Cured	Died	Total	Cured	Died	Total	Cured	Died	Total	Cured	Died	Total	Cured	Died	Total
January	1	29	30	2	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	3	32	35
February	...	2	2	2	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	3	9	12
March	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
May	...	2	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
June	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
July	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
August	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
September	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
October	...	3	3	...	2	2	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
November	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
December	1	8	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	1	10	11
Total	3	45	48	5	10	15	...	3	3	...	1	1	1	3	4	...	3	3	9	65	74
Percentage of deaths	93.7%			66.7%			100%			100%			75%			100%			87.8%		

No case of plague was notified in the districts of Grand Port, Savanne and Black River.

AGE INCIDENCE

Age Periods	Cured	Died	Total
Under 1 year	...	...	...
From 1 to 5 years	...	6	6
" 6 " 10	...	8	8
" 11 " 20	5	24	29
" 21 " 30	1	6	7
" 31 " 40	1	9	10
" 41 " 50	2	6	8
" 51 " 60	...	3	3
" 61 " 70	...	2	2
" 71 " 80	...	1	1
Above 80	...	...	...
Total	9	65	74

SEX INCIDENCE

Sex	Cured	Died	Total
Males	7	46	53
Females	2	19	21
Total	9	65	74

RACE INCIDENCE

Race	Cured	Died	Total
Mauritians	2	19	21
Indians	6	37	43
Chinese	1	9	10
Total	9	65	74

CLASSIFICATION OF CASES ACCORDING TO PLACE OF TREATMENT

	Cured	Died	Total
Seen post mortem ...	...	36	36
„ in extremis ...	...	4	4
Treated at home ...	1	1	2
„ at Grand River lazaret ...	2	4*	6*
„ at Civil Hospital ...	1	4	5
„ at Victoria Hospital ...	...	1	1
„ at Poudre d'Or Hospital ...	...	1	1
„ at Long Mountain Hospital...	...	1	1
„ at Chinese Hospital ...	...	7	7
„ at Estate Hospital ...	5	6	11
Total ...	9	65	74

4,988 persons were inoculated with anti-plague vaccine in Port Louis and 454 in Plaines Wilhems.

The tables hereunder show : (a) the number of rodents caught and (b) the number examined.

RETURN OF RODENTS.

Number of Rodents caught in Port Louis and Country Districts.

Port Louis ...	60,901
Pamplemousses ...	758
Plaines Wilhems ...	23,090
Grand Port ...	703
Savanne ...	1,347
Moka ...	2,423
Flacq ...	112
Black River ..	6,337
Rivière du Rempart ...	9
Total ...	105,680

EXAMINATION

Number of Rodents microscopically examined and the number found plague infected.

	Examined	Infected
Port Louis ...	29,492	103
Pamplemousses ...	733	28
Plaines Wilhems	15,798	14
Rivière du Rempart	3	1
Total ...	46,026	146

54 cats were found dead or killed in Port Louis ; only 15 of them could be examined and 2 were found plague infected.

The cost of the rat campaign for 1925 works out at 43 cents per rat caught.

Plague is usually virulent in Mauritius in the period extending from the end of August (with its maximum in November—December) to January—February.

The incidence of plague in January and February 1925 was but the termination of the epidemic of August 1924. The other cases which occurred during the year under review were only sporadic—viz : one case in April, 4 cases in May, one in August, one in September, 7 in October, 2 in November and 11 in December. No case has been detected during the year 1926 up to the date of this report viz April, 1926.

65% of the cases registered occurred in Port Louis.

In Plaines Wilhems where, from September 1924, the disease had shown a tendency to spread, the epidemic died out in February 1925. The 3 cases detected occurred in the contaminated area of Quatre Bornes viz : Trianon Estate Belle Rose. Only one other case (pneumonic plague) occurred in that district in May 1925 at Curepipe Road, coming from "Le Mesnil" (Phoenix).

Four other districts were visited by plague in 1925 viz : Pamplemousses, Rivière du Rempart, Flacq and Moka.

In Pamplemousses, 15 cases occurred in all : 10 in January-February, 2 in April-May and 3 in October-November. The January-February cases all occurred on Grande Rosalie Sugar Estate and were treated at the Estate hospital. Four cases recovered. The April-May cases came from The Mount Sugar Estate.

* One from Providence, removed to Moka Hospital and on being diagnosed transferred to G.R.N.W. lazaret.

The first case (bubonic plague) was detected at the Civil Hospital where the patient had been admitted and the other septicaemic plague) was seen post-mortem on the estate.

Of the 3 cases which occurred in October-November, 2 registered in October, were detected post-mortem. They occurred at Plaine des Papayes hamlet in the northern part of the district of Pamplemousses. The third case (bubonic plague) occurred in November, on Petite Rosalie Estate, an annexe of the Mount Sugar Estate. The case was treated at the hospital of the latter estate and recovered.

Petite Rosalie, Grande Rosalie and The Mount Sugar Estates being contiguous, the spread of the disease from one estate to the other is easily explained.

In Rivière du Rempart, the outbreak was confined to the hamlet of Goodlands. The first case was detected on the 21st September. It was septicaemic plague and was seen post-mortem.

The second case was also septicaemic plague and seen post-mortem. The third case (bubonic plague) a contact of the second had already developed plague on detection of the second case. It ended fatally at Poudre d'Or Hospital, where it had been removed for treatment.

In the district of Flacq a single case was detected in 1925. It occurred in January, in Grande Retraite hamlet where plague first broke out in December 1924 causing 4 deaths out of 5 cases detected.

In Moka, one case occurred in January and two in December. The first case, from Providence, was diagnosed at Moka hospital where the patient was under treatment. The case ended fatally at Grand River North West Lazaret where it was removed for segregation and treatment.

The two cases detected in December occurred at Nouvelle Découverte. The first was septicaemic plague. It was detected post mortem. The second (bubonic plague), was removed to Long Mountain hospital where it ended fatally.

The reports of the Medical Officers of Health for Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems, and of the Sanitary Wardens (North) and (South), Appendices I—IV contain special references, with respect to the occurrence of plague in 1925, in their districts.

Rodent plague, the forerunner of human plague, was detected as under in Port Louis in 1925. Figures for 1924 are given underneath.

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
1925												
26	20	12 plus 1 cat	5	3	1	1	7 plus 1 cat	6	4	16	2	103 plus 2 cats
1924												
12	7	2	1	15	5	12	8	27	58	48	66	261

No plague rat has been caught in Port Louis in 1926, up to the date of this report.

Special plague measures were taken in the infected localities in country districts, notably in Plaine des Papayes and Goodlands hamlets. They largely helped to circumscribe the disease and it may be said that a certain amount of success has repaid the efforts of this department.

Rat-catching and destruction were systematically carried out as a routine measure throughout the year, specially in Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems. Rats caught, killed or found dead are bacteriologically examined daily. Identification of fleas, recently started, has been continued for the larger part of the year by the Medical Officers of Health for Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems.

The control of deaths occurring in the districts of Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems is strictly performed in view of the possible concealment of plague cases.

The 104 grain-stores situated in the centre of Port Louis were regularly and often fumigated by means of the Clayton apparatus. Coasters are controlled nightly at the harbour in connection with the prevention of rat invasion.

The special measures taken in plague cases are generally as follows :—

- (i) Removal of patient, when possible, to the hospital at Grand River North West in the case of Port Louis and vicinity and to rural district hospitals or lazarets in case of distant places.
- (ii) Inoculation of all contacts with *B. pestis* vaccine and segregation of the contacts, either at home or in the lazaret according to the circumstances.
Medical supervision during segregation.
- (iii) Carrying out of intensive rat destruction measures in infected and threatened areas.
- (iv) Disinfection of premises and effects of patients and contacts ; and fumigation of infected blocks of dwelling.
- (v) Burning of infected huts (when old and in disrepair) or dethatching (when of a better type).

(Intensive rat-destruction and fumigation of premises are also carried out in cases where plague-infected rats are found).

- (vi) Rat-proofing of buildings.

Failure to eradicate plague and incomplete success of the anti-rat campaign are attributable to the following causes :

- (i) Lack of co-operation on the part of the vast majority of the community, due mostly to ignorance, apathy and scepticism.
- (ii) Defective housing conditions.
- (iii) Overcrowding in small, ill-ventilated rooms and insanitary mode of living of the general mass of the population.
- (iv) Non-rat-proof grain stores. In addition to the grain stores proper, every Chinaman's shop is an actual grain store. Rice, other grain and gunny bags are stored all over the town in non-rat-proof buildings.

The remedies suggested are :—

(I) Educational propaganda.

- (a) The teaching of hygiene in primary schools and girls' secondary schools which was started several years ago has not shown its beneficial effects fully yet, but it is only gradually that those effects may be expected to be materialized. The teachers should after having personally derived the fullest benefit from the lectures of the public health officer, take at heart the imparting of the elementary principles of hygiene to the schoolboys and girls. At the same time, hygiene should be taught in *all schools and colleges* without exception.
- (b) Cinema films, lectures, illustrated leaflets and posters.

Several cinema films and a complete portable projection (electric power) apparatus have been received. The titles of the films which have already been received are : "Mosquitoes and Malaria", "Swat that fly," "The Rat Menace" and "Ankylostomiasis." The films have been shown free of charge in schools and elsewhere and free open air exhibitions will also be given.

Several leaflets (bulletins) have already been published in English and French and on occasion arising, this procedure will be continued.

- (c) It is expected with the complete and efficient training the sanitary staff is now undergoing that Sanitary Officers will be conscious of and alive to the *educational* mission they are entrusted with towards the community as regards all the aspects of public health.

(II) and (III) More houses, better houses; better housing conditions and domestic hygiene.

During years it has been constantly necessary to call attention to the unsatisfactory conditions arising from the *scarcity of houses, dilapidated houses, dark and ill-ventilated houses, back to back houses, absence of domestic hygiene.*

Houses are constantly being erected which do not satisfy the minimum health requirements and which should not have been passed as fit for human habitation. The Medical Department has now no word to say, legally, in the erection or re-construction of buildings.

Overcrowding exists in the town of Port Louis, the townships of Plaines Wilhems and many villages and hamlets. The shortage of houses prevents in several cases the execution of repairs and improvements necessary as temporary evacuation is indispensable, and other houses cannot at the same time be obtained.

All over the island, buildings which are on the border line of unfitness for human occupation can be seen inhabited. The law should be amended to give power to expropriate and demolish those dwellings in slum areas which are unfit for human habitation.

The social conditions and housing of the poorer classes in Port Louis have been admirably described by Dr. Balfour in his reports. Housing in Port Louis and its suburbs, in populous towns, villages and hamlets is absolutely wretched. A careful investigation has shown that about 50% of all the dwellings in Port Louis are in a ruinous state. Such breeding places of disease should be removed, then large savings could be effected on the expenditure upon hospitals and dispensaries.

A healthy house is essential. The air space around a house is of more importance than the size of the house itself.

It is impossible to demolish or close houses on a wholesale scale until better and more attractive accommodation may be offered to the dispossessed. The erection of new houses by private enterprise, although generally in progress over recent years, has not relieved the congestion in slum areas to any appreciable extent.

Our policy must aim at prevention in its fullest and most liberal sense. The hospitals have been improved in equipment and staff. Better provisions for medical attendance on the poor have been made and new dispensaries are opened as circumstances require. It is however essential that the efforts of the public health campaign should be concentrated upon methods and means that will reduce the demands on these institutions.

GOVERNMENT HOUSING SCHEME.

The scheme devised by His Excellency Sir Hesketh Bell, G.C.M.G., former Governor of Mauritius, in an example of what can be done in Mauritius towards solving the problem of the housing of working classes.

The Bell Village at Cassis which has grown up to a pleasant and attractive suburb has continued to justify the hopes placed in the scheme. It has been further extended during the year.

The construction of this village has provided a mine of information regarding the best type of materials to be employed in such work, which information will be of great value to the Colony in the future.

The locality is healthy and the village experiences almost constantly the beneficent effects of a fresh breeze.

On the 31st December 1925 the following buildings had been completed :—

Bell Village.—35 two-roomed cottages :
4 lodges of six rooms each ;
3 bungalows.

The population of these “villages” stood as under on the 31st December, 1925 :

			Adults	Children
Bell Village	...	...	415	268
New Cut Street	...	...	49	34
			<hr/> 464	<hr/> 302

The buildings in occupation were as under on the 31st December, 1925 :—

Bell Village.—105 two-roomed cottages
18 three “ ”
91 rooms in lodges
1 bungalow

[A lodge of 4 double rooms is used as an Institute].

New Cut Street.—20 double rooms in the 3 lodges of 12 double rooms each.

(iv) The rat proofing of grain-stores.

The grain stores now existing in Port Louis could not easily be made rat-proof, if even attempts were possible.

The provision of a rat-proof granary wherein all grain imported should, after fumigation on board the vessel, be stored directly from the steamer or lighters, is still to be finally approved. It is the only way out of the danger which the wholesale grain stores constitute. It is proposed that the granary should be of sufficient capacity to store three months' supply of grain for the Colony.

The close relationship existing between plague and the existing system of storing grain in Port Louis as reported by the Medical Officer of Health Port Louis on the result of examination of rats during the season of the various years is shown by the following comparison :

In 1922, 76 per cent. of all rats examined showing rat plague came from grain areas.
In 1923, 78 per cent.
In 1924, 76 per cent.
In 1925, 21.3 per cent.

Since the latter part of 1923 steps have been taken in Port Louis for the systematic rat-proofing of shops. Stores, stables, bakehouses and premises where plague or plague infected rats are found or which are situated in contaminated blocks.

Over 201 premises in Port Louis have thus been rendered rat-proof in 1925 in well-known areas where plague had existed for years. So far no case of plague has occurred in of these areas since rat-proofing has been done. Similar measures have been adopted in Plaines Wilhems district and in districts under the care of the Sanitary Warden, South, and in individual cases all over the island.

The policy of building out the rat has been adopted with the aim to separate the home of the rat from his food supply and so get rid of the essentials that rats rely on, also to abolish small spaces and rat runs. Unfortunately water taps in Mauritius are allowed to run day and night and rats have easy access to water. The results of rat-proofing up to date are very encouraging.

ENTERIC FEVER

122 cases of enteric fever were notified in 1925 against 107 in 1924. The number of cases notified for the past ten years is as under :—

1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
<hr/> 227	<hr/> 244	<hr/> 169	<hr/> 190	<hr/> 168	<hr/> 288	<hr/> 224	<hr/> 150	<hr/> 107	<hr/> 122

The largest number of cases occurred in the districts of Port Louis (20), Savane (17), Moka (16), in the towns of Curepipe (20), and Beau-Bassin-Rose-Hill-Quatre Bornes (14), 57 cases were treated in hospital against 47 in 1924 and 77 in 1923. The case mortality was 17.5% (10 deaths) against 17% in 1924 and 1923.

25 deaths attributed to enteric fever were registered in the whole colony against 29 in 1924 and 44 in 1923.

Anti-enteric vaccination is performed generally and prophylactic vaccine is prepared and stocked at the Bacteriological Laboratory, and supplied free to medical practitioners on request. The applications have shown a notable decrease but it is considered that in only

few cases recourse is not now had to this prophylactic measure. Specially prepared anti-typhoid vaccine for oral administration has recently been introduced and its use is gradually increasing. It is well-known that the present water supply of Port Louis and Savanne is bad but it is indeed interesting to observe the number of cases of enteric fever in Curepipe, Rose Hill—Beau-Bassin—Quatre Bornes area and in the Moka district, all, of which places are supplied with Mare-aux-Vacoas water, and when one reads the result of the monthly bacteriological examination of Mare-aux-Vacoas water the question of boiling all drinking water in Mauritius should be seriously considered by the population.

DIPHTHERIA.

68 cases of Diphtheria were notified in 1925 against 104 in 1924 and 47 in 1923. About one third of the total number of cases notified viz 22, occurred in each of the following sanitary sections: (i) town of Curepipe and (ii) towns of Beau Bassin, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes.

The next highest number of notifications came from the district of Moka (9) and Phoenix Vacoas villages (6). As usual the cases were rather confined to the better educated and wealthy section of the community and to the districts of Plaines Wilhems (50) and Moka (9).

11 cases were treated in hospital, all of which were cured against 11 cases and 2 deaths in 1924 and 5 cases and one death in 1923.

2 deaths were registered in the whole island against 5 in 1924 and in 1923.

SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION.

There has been no small-pox in the island since 1913. A total of 11,204 children were vaccinated during the year by the Public Vaccinators and the results were as under:—

Successful vaccinations on 1st attendance	...	...	10,071
„ „ 2nd and subsequent attendances...			944
			—————11,015
Unsuccessful vaccinations	...	...	170
Vaccinations in which the result could not be ascertained	...		19
			—————
			11,204
			—————

The proportion of vaccinated children to total live births is 67.7% against 70.09% for 1924 and 66.1% for 1923.

In some cases vaccinations are privately done, they are not included in the figures quoted above.

The low proportion of vaccinated children to total live births gives an idea of the large number of unvaccinated inhabitants of Mauritius and of the danger those unvaccinated persons may run if an epidemic of small-pox happened to break out. The wide margin between vaccinated and unvaccinated children is to be attributed largely to the fact that in certain sections of the community, children are not, as a rule, submitted to vaccination.

Ord. No. 47 of 1925, the new Public Health Ordinance, provides for the vaccination of children within *six* months from the date of birth instead of *ten* months as previously provided for Ord. No. 12 of 1875 which has been repealed.

Every effort is being made to ensure that vaccination will be carried out. When one realizes the living conditions of the working classes who live mostly in one single room which contains from 4 to 6 persons, and who are on the border line of poverty, one has an idea of what could occur if small-pox would break out. It behoves us to see that vaccination is carried out thoroughly and efficiently.

PUERPERAL SEPTICAEMIA AND FEVER.

In 1925, 178 women died in consequence of the puerperal state against 260 in 1924 and 228 in 1923.

The deaths are classified as under:—

		1924	1925
Uncontrollable vomiting	...	3	4
Puerperal hoemorrhage	...	6	5
Other accidents of childbirth	...	198	132
Puerperal fever	...	37	24
„ convulsions	...	16	9
„ embolism	...	...	3
Abortion	...	...	1
		—————	—————
Total	...	260	178
		—————	—————
Percentage of total deaths	...	2.5	1.9
Death-rate %	...	.7	.5

34 cases of puerperal septicaemia of which 8 proved fatal, were treated in hospitals against 19 cases and 9 deaths in 1924 and 24 cases and 9 deaths in 1923.

(Case mortality 235 against 47.4% in 1924 and 37.5% in 1923.)

40 notifications were received during the year against 17 in 1924 and 18 in 1923. The table appearing at the beginning of this chapter contains fuller details of the cases notified.

16,545 being the number of live births for 1925, the mortality among women in childbirth is 10.7 ‰ per thousand of live births, a high figure, although it shows a notable decrease as compared with 16.8 for 1924 and 16.4 for 1923.

Unqualified and unfit midwives are undoubtedly responsible for a large proportion of those deaths. With the development and carrying out of the measures mentioned in the preceding chapter "Midwifery and Child Welfare," the future may be expected to be less sad for women in childbirth in the poorer classes.

MEASLES.

9 cases were notified against 7 in 1924 and 9 in 1923. Details are given in the preceding table. One hospital admission (Civil Hospital).—During 1925 no death was registered from Measles.

ERYSIPELAS.

25 cases were notified against 14 in 1924 and 16 in 1923. The distribution of the cases is shown in the preceding table.

9 deaths were registered against 10 in 1924 and 9 the previous year.

Hospital admissions reached 20 with 4 deaths against 19 with 5 deaths in 1924 and 24 with 4 deaths in 1923.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

Two cases were notified in 1925, as per table appearing at the beginning of this chapter In hospital, 2 cases were treated and recovered.

CHICKEN POX.

4 cases were notified in Beau Bassin-Rose Hill-Quatre Bornes sanitary section. 33 cases were treated in hospital as under :

- 10 at the Mental Hospital
- 2 „ Beau Bassin Prison Hospital
- 21 „ Barkly Industrial School Hospital.

SCARLET FEVER

A case of scarlet fever in Port Louis harbour was notified in April, 1925. The patient was the 2nd Officer of the S.S. "Ilford." The necessary precautionary measures were taken on board the ship.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

MALARIA.

Malaria is not a notifiable disease in Mauritius, so the number of cases cannot be accurately given beyond admission for the disease in hospital, treatment at dispensaries and deaths certified by medical practitioners.

The total number of admissions in hospitals for Malaria (Hypertrophy of spleen included) was 2,249, an increase of 510 over the figure for 1924. The case mortality was 1.2% against 2.4 the previous year and 2.1 in 1923.

The following statement shows the admissions for Malaria and Hypertrophy of Spleen and deaths from both causes during the year under review and during 1924 for comparison :—

INSTITUTIONS	MALARIA				HYPERTROPHY OF SPLEEN			
	Admissions		Deaths		Admissions		Deaths	
	1924	1925	1924	1925	1924	1925	1924	1925
Civil Hospital - - -	634	627	20	15	48	71	1	...
Port Louis Prison - -	11	18	...	...	5	...	...	...
Long Mountain Hospital -	96	118	...	1	6	27	...	...
Poudre d'Or Hospital -	290	434	5	6	...	...	...	...
Flacq „	84	92	2	1	...	10	...	...
Mahébourg „	112	157	8	1	4	8	..	...
Souillac „	73	159	...	...	5	8	...	...
Victoria „	159	277	4	1	45	37	1	...
Beau Bassin Prison -	82	95	...	...	6	...	...	...
Reformatory* - -	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	..
Moka Hospital - -	41	57	...	...	12	...	1	..
Mental Hospital - -	25	27	...	2	...	19	..	...
Total -	1,608	2,069	39	27	131	180	3	...

* Now Barkley Industrial School.

The return for the last ten years is as under :—

1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
2,905	2,939	2,262	3,390	2,699	1,554	2,762	1,774	1,739	2,249

The monthly hospital admissions range in the following descending order: January, March, February, April, May, June, July, December, August, September, October and November.

In the public dispensaries a total of 17,578 cases of malaria were treated against 15,067 the previous year and 19,268 in 1923. This shews an increase of 2,511 over 1924.

The distribution, according to districts, of the deaths due to Malaria and Malarial Cachexia during 1925 has been shown under section "Deaths", Chapter I.

The total number of malaria deaths viz 1,612 is equivalent to a death-rate of 4.15 per thousand of the population against 4.47 for 1924, 5.1 for 1923 and 7.5 for the five-year period 1920-24.

The number of deaths due to Malaria and Malarial Cachexia viz 1,634 is equivalent to a death-rate of 4.2 ‰ for 1925 against 4.53 ‰ for 1924, 5.2 for 1923 and 7.7 for the quinquennial period 1920-24.

It represents 17.5 of the total deaths for the year under review against 16.4o/o for 1924 and 18.3% for 1923.

Free distribution of quinine is made at police stations and public primary schools.

SPLEEN EXAMINATIONS AND BLOOD TESTS FOR MALARIAL PARASITES

Spleen examination of school children continues to be made twice during the year.

This enumeration by Medical Officers of enlarged spleens or otherwise among school children is regarded as a fairly reliable index of the degree of malaria in a locality and is specially useful for purposes of comparison. The conclusion to be drawn from the examinations made in 1925 is a decrease in certain districts, and an increase in others, showing no appreciable change for the whole island.

The following statement gives the spleen rates for the last five years :—

District	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
	%	%	%	%	%
Port Louis ...	13.9	20.8	8.7	7.16	5.49
Pamplemousses ...	8.3	12.8	25.3	...	9.7
Rivière du Rempart ...	8.2	14.2	18.7	...	* 13.5
Flacq ...	13.7	21.3	...	...	19.2
Grand Port ...	...	...	19.5	21.3	18.0
Savanne ...	...	...	13.6	12.7	12.5
Black River ...	40.1	...	54.9	53.3	58.6
Plaines Wilhems ...	...	...	...	.8	1.27
Moka... ..	2.2	4.6	5.8	4.16	4.05
Whole Colony	10.0	15.8	15.6	11.2	11.58

These figures can only be regarded as approximate. The average number of children examined in each half-year is 16,108.

The examination of the blood of children of primary schools with a view to ascertaining the presence of malarial parasites is carried on as a routine measure by a trained microscopist. The findings of the tests made in 1925 are shown hereunder :—

BLOOD TESTS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN FOR MALARIAL PARASITES

Name of Schools	No. of pupils examined	No. of pupils infected	No. of pupils having taken quinine at least once in 8 days previous to examination	Percentage of pupils infected
—	—	—	—	—
PORT LOUIS DISTRICT	—	—	—	—
Arsenal Street Aided ...	180	4	180	2.2
Central Boys' Government ...	192	4	192	2
Cassis Road Government ...	216	15	216	6.9
Champ de Lort Government ...	215	8	215	3.7
De la Salle R.C. Aided ...	202	5	202	2.4
Immaculée Conception Aided ...	155	5	155	3.2
La Paix Street R.C. Aided ...	131	4	131	3
Pamplemousses Road Infants' Govt.	161	3	161	1.8
Pamplemousses Road Aided ...	242	8	242	3.3
Pailles Government ...	45	4	45	8.3
St. Joseph R.C. Aided (Cassis) ...	90	4	90	3.3
St. Joseph R.C. (Magon Street) ...	176	6	176	3.9
Ste Croix R.C. Aided ...	47	4	...	8.5
Signal Mountain R.C. Aided ...	209	11	...	5.2
S. Soortee Mahomedan Aided ...	212	9	212	4.2
Vallée des Prêtres Government ...	124	3	124	2.4
Western Suburb Government ...	209	9	209	4.3

*Owing to illness and pressure of work, the Sanitary Warden. N could not make a complete spleen-census during the second half-year.

Name of Schools	No. of pupils examined	No. of pupils infected	No. of pupils having taken quinine at least once in 8 days previous to examination	Percentage of pupils infected
PAMPLEMOUSSES DISTRICT				
Pamplemousses Government ...	70	4	...	5.7
Pamplemousses R.C. Aided ...	39	2	39	5.1
Plaine des Papayes Government ...	93	3	...	3.2
Ruisseau Rose Government ...	79	4	...	5
Triolet Aided ...	164	6	...	3.6
Trou aux Biches Aided ..	35	2	35	5.7
RIVIERE DU REMPART				
Cap Malheureux Government ...	41	4	...	9.7
Grand Bay Government ...	89	1	...	1.1
Grand Gaube R.C. Aided ...	50	4	50	8
Goodlands Government ...	46	2	46	4.3
Poudre d'Or R.C. Aided ...	60	3	60	5
Piton Government ...	94	2	...	2.1
FLACQ DISTRICT				
Flacq Post R. C. Aided ...	63	6	63	9.5
Grand River S. E. Government ...	176	5	176	2.8
Rivière Sèche Government ...	113	4	113	3.6
St. Julien R. C. Aided ...	41	2	...	4.8
Trou d'Eau Douce Government ...	94	4	94	4.2
GRAND PORT DISTRICT				
Anse Jonchée Aided ...	70	3	70	4.3
Grand Sable Aided ...	50	2	50	4
L'Escalier Government ...	179	3	179	1.6
Mare Tabac R. C. Aided ...	107	4	...	3.6
Mahébourg Boys' Government ...	68	2	...	2.9
Mahébourg R. C. Aided ...	71	3	71	4.2
New Grove R. C. Aided ...	128	4	...	3.1
Plaine Magnien Government ...	171	5	171	2.9
Rose Belle Boys' Government ...	103	3	...	2.9
Rose Belle Girls' Government ...	132	3	...	2.2
Riche-en-Eau Government ...	61	3	61	4.9
SAVANNE DISTRICT				
Camp Diable Government ...	156	4	156	2.5
Chemin Grenier Government ...	57	4	57	7.
Rivière des Anguilles Govt. ...	248	5	248	2.
Souillac R. C. Aided ...	118	2	...	1.7
Souillac Government ...	125	3	...	2.4
BLACK RIVER DISTRICT				
Bambous Government ...	88	4	88	4.5
Clarens Government ...	57	3	...	5.2
Palma Aided ...	99	3	...	3
Petite Rivière Road Govt. ...	70	4	70	5.7
Tamarind Bay Aided ...	17	6	6	35.3
MOKA DISTRICT				
Bocage Aided ...	66	2	...	3.
Moka Government ...	90	1	...	1.1
Verdun Aided ...	118	3	118	2.5
RECAPITULATION				
Port Louis ...	2,806	106	2,550	3.7
Pamplemousses ...	480	21	74	4.3
Rivière du Rempart ...	380	156	16	4.2
Flacq ...	487	21	446	4.3
Grand Port ...	1,140	35	602	3.
Savanne ...	704	18	461	2.5
Black River ...	331	20	158	6.0
Moka ...	274	6	118	2.1
Total ...	6,602	243	4,565	3.6

From the above figures it would appear that the most malaria infected district is Black River. It is interesting to note that where Quinine is given regularly in Malarial Districts by the School teachers that great improvement is shown in those Schools as compared with other Schools.

MALARIA CAMPAIGN.

Although the prevalence of malaria has been constantly decreasing during the last few years, that disease still constitutes a powerful disabling influence and a serious menace to the health and material prosperity of the Colony.

No effort is however spared to combat the causes of the disease and of its spread.

Dr. Mac Gregor, in his report on malaria in Mauritius, made proposals with a view to the eradication of malaria from the island. These proposals seem sufficiently promising of success to justify great efforts being made to carry them to a conclusion.

The Malaria campaign suggested requiring the services of a supervising and technical staff possessing special wide experience, Dr. A. Balfour advised Government to apply to the Rockefeller Foundation.

Formal application to the International Health Board of that Foundation was made in 1925. The scheme aims at securing the valuable co-operation of the International Health Board on lines similar to those of the Ankylostomiasis Campaign. It is earnestly hoped that the Board will agree to assist. The question of malaria is too large a problem for anything but whole time effort. It is essential for success that it be dealt with by a staff free to give undivided and continuous attention to the question. The malaria problem must further be looked upon as a whole so that the work undertaken will follow a single plan of action ultimately resulting in completion without overlapping or leaving gaps.

DYSENTERY.

The mortality due to that disease in 1925 was 298 against 336 in 1924, 318 in 1923 and 429 the average for the quinquennial period 1920-24.

It is equivalent to 3.2% of total deaths as in 1924. The months with highest deaths were February, March, April and May and those with lowest deaths September, October, November and December.

The hospital admissions reached 566 (with 32 deaths) against 458 (23 deaths) in 1924 and 461 average for the five-year period 1920-24. The hospital case mortality was 5.6% against 5.02% the previous year.

1,908 cases were treated in the dispensaries against 1,675 in 1924 and 1,497 the mean for the quinquennial period 1920-24. Dysentery is undoubtedly a water-borne disease and the importance of pure water-supply must be strongly recommended.

LEPROSY.

The number of inmates at the Leper Hospital on the 1st January, 1925 was 25 (13 males, 12 females).

During the period under review there were five admissions (4 males, 1 female.) Of the admissions one was a case of tubercular leprosy, and the remainder belonged to the anaesthetic type. Two deaths occurred during the year, amongst the male patients.

Leprosy is now a notifiable disease, through the passing of the Public Health Ordinance of 1925. There is ample provision in that enactment to ensure the complete isolation of an efficient control over every leper case in the Colony.

The Powder Mills Leper Hospital where the lepers are segregated fulfils all the conditions as regards situation, extent and accommodation, inherent to an establishment of its kind.

During the year the additions to the existing buildings comprised the erection of the premises of the Hospital of a Dispenser's quarters and of Servants' quarters.

Treatment.—Oscol Stibium has been tried with encouraging results up to now. The treatment is still in progress and it is proposed to give the drug a prolonged trial before any definite opinion is arrived at.

The grant of a scholarship to the Government Medical Officer Pamplémousses (who is the officer in charge of the Leper Hospital) to enable him to train specially in Leprosy, but instead of South Africa he will probably undergo his training in India.

Up to the passing of the new Health Ordinance, only Pauper and Convict lepers could be compelled to reside in the Leper Hospital. Now that the Act is a fact accomplished, regulations providing the restriction of lepers in regard to various trades and occupations can be insisted on.

A leprosy Board consisting of the Director of the Medical and Health Department, the magistrate of Port Louis and the Superintendent of the Leper Hospital have lost no time and several visits have been made to various districts, investigating cases.

At the Leper Hospital, all lepers, unless quarantine and medical treatment can be carried out safely to the public, and to the satisfaction of the Leprosy Board, are bound to reside there.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

Hospital admissions reached 433 against 408 in 1924, 368 in 1923, 444 in 1922 and 577 in 1921. The case mortality was 24.7% (107 deaths) against 26.2% (107 deaths) in 1924.

366 cases received treatment at the public dispensaries and 110 at the hospitals as outdoor cases.

The mortality from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the whole colony was 817, of which 517 were medically certified, against 869 in 1924, 828 in 1923, 958 in 1922 and 915, average for the five-year period 1920-24.

The table hereunder shows the distribution of deaths from tuberculous diseases for 1925 and the preceding five years :—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	Average	1925
Pulmonary tuberculosis and Phthisis...	1,005	1,010	1,076	959	949	998	860
All other forms of Tuberculosis ...	1,030	1,035	1,083	979	960	1,017	898

The mortality from pulmonary tuberculosis and phthisis represents 9.2% of the total deaths in 1925 against 8.9 in 1924.

The months with highest deaths were October (87), January (77), August (75) and July (74) the month with lowest deaths was February (53.)

According to the Public Health Ordinance 1925, this disease became notifiable on the last day of the year. Regulations for putting the law into effect are being drafted.

The Tuberculosis Clinic at the General Dispensary continued under the charge of Dr. Rama as honorary physician, assisted by a dispenser and a trained microscopist. The Clinic was open twice weekly.

The total number number of out-patients treated since the Clinic started work in November 1923 was 250, those found suffering from Tuberculosis this year: 89. The more serious cases requiring in-patient treatment were referred to the Civil Hospital. The out-patient department is distressingly large compared to the in-patient department. The class of patient using the facilities for treatment refuses to realise that Pulmonary tuberculosis requires absolute rest and fresh air and that it cannot be cured out of a bottle. There is a specially built Tuberculosis ward in the grounds of the Civil Hospital containing 20 beds It is very rarely full.

The numbers attending the out-patient clinic are gradually increasing as the work and its results are becoming known to the public.

During the year Dr. D. Drydale Anderson was appointed whole time officer in charge of the work in connection with this disease and venereal diseases. Before leaving Europe, he investigated the work of M. Henri Spahlinger of Geneva. He visited the laboratories and examined several cases who had undergone the treatment. When available on a large scale, samples of the sera and vaccine will be ordered and trials will be made here.

The League of Nations' Tuberculosis Section put Dr. Anderson in touch with the campaign against the disease in the United States of America. In Paris the Rockefeller Foundation gave him introductions to Dr. Léon Bernard and through him he was shown the growth and work of the Tuberculosis Campaign recently successfully carried through in France. At the Pasteur Institute he was shown the method of preparation of Prof. Calmette's prophylactic B.C.G. vaccine. He also visited the "Union Internationale contre la tuberculose."

Dr. Anderson arrived in the Colony on the 13th December and took over the Tuberculosis Clinic a week later. The Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease work was joined together under the one heading of the Section of Applied and Social Hygiene.

INFLUENZA

In the whole Colony, the deaths from Influenza stand at 347 against 760 in 1924 and 769 mean for the five years 1920-1924.

From 1919, year of the Influenza epidemic, Mauritius appears to be periodically visited by outbreaks of influenza epidemics, more or less extensive and severe. The following table shows the number of deaths from Influenza yearly from 1914, and the percentage of Influenza deaths to total deaths :—

Year	No. of deaths	Percentage of total deaths	Year	No. of deaths	Percentage of total deaths
1914	- 268	- 2.2	1920	- 334	- 2.8
1915	- 197	- 1.5	1921	- 1,563	- 10.3
1916	- 233	- 2.0	1922	- 631	- 4.9
1917	- 252	- 2.1	1923	- 556	- 5.2
1918	- 198	- 1.5	1924	- 760	- 7.2
1919	- 9,905	- 40.5	1925	- 347	- 3.7

The mortality represents a death rate of .89 ‰ against 1.99 ‰ in 1924 and 1.47 ‰ in 1923.

The hospital returns show 1,150 admissions with 27 deaths against 1,940 admissions with 74 deaths in 1924 and 1,192 admissions with 53 deaths in 1923.

The hospital case mortality in 1925 was 2.3% against 3.8% in 1924 and 4.4 in 1923. The average number of admissions during the five years 1920-1924 is 1,862.

The hospital admissions in 1925 were highest in July and January and lowest in November and December.

5,962 cases of Influenza received treatment at the public dispensaries in 1925 against 9,714 in 1924.

PNEUMONIA

In the whole Colony, the deaths from Pneumonia during 1925 reached 610 against 1,018 in 1924, 1,083 in 1923 and 1,244 mean for the five years preceding 1925. The months with highest deaths were January (83), July (69) and September (62),

The deaths from Broncho-pneumonia (163), Pneumonia (type not stated) (610) and Lobar-pneumonia (12) total 785 in 1925 against 1,296 (255, 1,018 and 23 respectively) in 1924 and 1,393 (290, 1,083 and 20 respectively) in 1923. They represent 8.4% of total deaths against 12.3% in 1924 and 12.9% in 1923. The hospital admissions numbered 133 with 61 deaths against 211 with 104 deaths in 1924, 287 with 103 deaths in 1923 and 291 with 107 deaths mean for the five-year period 1920-24.

These figures are equivalent to a case mortality of 45.8% in 1925, 49.3% in 1924, 35.9% in 1923 and 36.7% mean for 1920-24.

BRONCHITIS.

The total deaths registered in the Colony numbered 494 against 537 the previous year and 597 average for the five years preceding 1924. They represent 5.3% of total deaths against 5.1 in 1924 and 4.8 in 1923.

The months with highest deaths were January (72) and May (50). Deaths in the other months varied between 35 and 46 except October (22).

The hospital admissions reached 773 with 27 deaths against 899 with 32 deaths in 1924, giving a case mortality of 3.5% as in 1924.

3,942 cases were treated at the public dispensaries, against 5,245 the previous year.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS

In the whole Colony there occurred 661 deaths from diarrhœa and enteritis in the year under review against 547 in 1924 and 625 in 1923.

This is equivalent to a death-rate of 1.7 ‰ and a percentage of 7.1 of total deaths against 1.4 ‰ and 5.2 for 1924. The death-rate was 1.6 ‰ in 1923, 1.9 ‰ in 1922 and 2.3 ‰ in 1921 and the percentage of total deaths was 5.8, 4.8 and 5.0 respectively.

In the hospitals 577 cases were treated resulting in 49 deaths, giving a case mortality of 8.5%. The corresponding figures for 1924 are 532, 69 and 13% and for 1923 506, 45 and 8.9%.

In the months January-July, deaths ascribed to diarrhœa and enteritis averaged 70 monthly and in August-December period, the monthly average was 34.

The increase in the mortality as shown by the number of deaths registered in the whole island and the increase in the morbidity as witnessed by the number of hospital admissions lead one to consider that the water-supply through pollution is the source of the evil.

ORGANIC DISEASES OF THE HEART

Deaths, in the whole Colony, from organic diseases of the heart numbered 103, giving a percentage of 1.1 of total deaths as against 148 deaths and 1.4% of total deaths for 1924.

Hospital admissions reached 126 with 24 deaths against 145 admissions and 29 deaths in 1924. The case mortality was thus 19% in 1925 against 20% in 1924 and 18.8% in 1924.

CANCER OR MALIGNANT DISEASE

The following table supplies particulars relating to this disease :—

			1924	1925
Hospital admissions	...	...	73	69
" deaths	...	...	10	15
" case mortality	...	...	13.7%	21.7%
Deaths registered (whole Colony)	...	...	50	64
distributed as follows :—				
Cancer of the buccal cavity	..	...	2	6
" " stomach, liver &c.	...	...	12	14
" " peritoneum, intestines and rectum		...	1	4
" " female genital organs		...	12	18
" " breast	...	...	3	2
" " other unspecified organs		...	20	18
" " skin	...	...	...	2

VENEREAL DISEASES

43 deaths from Syphilis were registered in 1925 against 27 in 1924. In hospital, 269 cases were treated and 7 deaths recorded as compared with 281 cases and 4 deaths in 1924.

The hospital and dispensary cases are distributed as under :—

		Hospital Indoor		Hospital Outdoor		Dispensary
		Cases	Deaths	Cases		Cases
Primary Infection	...	39	...	5		83
Secondary	"	111	...	31		18
Tertiary	"	93	7	80		68
Inherited	"	22	...	...		...
Congenital	"	4	...	18		3
		269	7	134		172

On the 4th February, 1925 the Government Scheme for the treatment and alleviation of Venereal Diseases came into operation. A clinic was installed in the Civil Hospital and was open twice a week under the charge of Dr. E. de Robillard. He was assisted by a dispenser and a warder. The treatment was given free and confidential.

Owing to the publicity of the clinic in the Hospital grounds patients were shy of being seen using it. It was therefore transferred to the Central Dispensary which has a separate entrance from the street and also a separate waiting room. The public then began to come in increasing numbers and at the end of the year the outlook was encouraging. One difficulty

in the work exists here as everywhere else, the tendency of patients to stop coming for treatment once the obvious signs and symptoms have disappeared, but long before the disease has been eliminated from the system. It can only be overcome by the education of the public to this danger.

Dr. D. Drysdale Anderson was appointed as whole time officer in charge of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases. He arrived in the Colony on the 13th December 1925 and took over the Clinic three days later. In accordance with the practice in Europe, etc., the term "Social Hygiene" was assumed in connection with Venereal Diseases and their prophylaxis treatment and propaganda were joined with those of Tuberculosis under the Section of Social and Applied Hygiene. This Section is now in close touch with the British Social Hygiene Council and also with the American Social Hygiene Association.

ANKYLOSTOMIASIS.

70 deaths from Ankylostomiasis were registered in 1925 against 61 in 1924, 51 in 1923 and 56 in 1922. 931 cases were treated in hospital, 10 of which proved fatal against 768 cases and 12 deaths in 1924 and 500 cases and 13 deaths in 1923.

The case mortality thus works out at 1.07% for 1925, 1.56 for 1924 and 2.6 for 1923. 2,925 cases were received at the dispensaries throughout the island and as outdoor hospital cases.

HOOKWORM CAMPAIGN.

The Hookworm Campaign, carried out by the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation on a three years' agreement of co-operation, terminated in May 1925. The Medical and Health Department then assumed the entire responsibility of carrying out the campaign as a permanent branch.

Hereunder is a brief summary of the salient particulars of the campaign during the year 1925 :—

At the beginning of the year operations were still in progress in the Savane District, the field office being situated at Souillac. The activities of the campaign were still under the auspices of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, having as Director and representative Dr. Yeager.

The third week in March brought to a close a very successful campaign which yielded in the previous month, namely February, a maximum of 3,587 treatments, of which 3,433 were first, 119 second and 33 third. Just a few days previous to removal to Plaines Wilhems, 402 individuals presented themselves at Chemin Grenier dispensary in one day. Plaines Wilhems being the next district selected, the field office was transferred to Rose Hill and after a few days preparations the campaign was opened. The labourers of sugar estates being the most affected, attention was directed to them first. The estates visited have been Trianon, Ebene, Bagatelle and Réunion where conferences have been given, living hookworm larvae shown under the microscope and subsequent treatment administered.

Great enthusiasm was displayed at Trianon and to a lesser degree to Réunion. Owing to some arrangement made by Dr. Yeager and the managing authorities, operations on Highlands were withheld, and Ebene and Bagatelle being annexes of the former showed little inclination for treatment when visited. The Stanley sugar estate company voluntarily contributed towards the campaign with 186 treatments, of which 104 were first, 70 second, 11 third and 1 fourth.

During the month of April, amidst a crowded house, the hookworm film was exhibited at one of the local picture houses. His Excellency the Governor, members of the Beau-Bassin and Rose Hill and other notables being present.

On the 15th of May the period of co-operation between the International Health Board and the Government ended, the latter assuming the whole cost of the operations. Dr. Yeager, the representative of the International Health Board, left Mauritius at the end of May.

The end of July saw a reduction in the staff of microscopists to the extent of three members.

Owing to the vacation, treatment of the school children had to be deferred during the month of August, being resumed however in September. At the beginning of October, information being required concerning the rate of infection, some three hundred specimens were collected from the Moka district.

Completion of the schools, thirty-three in number, to which a conference, lantern demonstration, an exhibition of the hookworm larvae under the microscope and subsequent treatment were given, took place towards the end of October.

Early in November the hookworm film was again shown to the school children at one of the Belle Rose picture houses. In the middle of the same month, preparations were made for an extension of the campaign to the Black River district and owing to the near approach of the Xmas holidays, the schools in that district were dealt with at the earliest opportunity. The field men with the exception of one to be available wherever required in Plaines Wilhems, were despatched to Black River on the 1st of December. The inhabitants of the villages and surrounding areas of Grande Rivière, Beau-Bassin, Rose Hill, Quatre-Bornes, Phoenix, Vacoas and Curepipe have been canvassed and treatment given to those desirous, in some cases domiciliary but mostly congregational. Patients attended the office at Rose Hill daily from different places in Plaines Wilhems. Some have come from Mahebourg, Souillac and Flacq.

Operations at present are mostly in progress in the Black River district. The more serious symptoms of ankylostomiasis are not often encountered in Plaines Wilhems. Anaemia both among children and adults is not so marked as in the Savane District and still less so in Grand Port. Cardiac murmurs, haemic in origin, are also less frequent, but organic disease is sometimes met with.

In the accompanying statistical tables of the central office, Port Louis, Savane, Plaines Wilhems, Moka and Black River, while the same number of cases have not been taken at each age period in general, one finds that the number of individuals who harbour ankylostomes rises at each age period towards thirty and falls towards sixty.

HOOKWORM CAMPAIGN WORK—MAURITIUS—FOR THE YEAR 1925.

		Classification by Age												Total						
		0-5		6-10		11-20		21-30		31-40		41-50				51-60		Over 60		
Census	Examined		Infected		Examined		Infected		Examined		Infected		Examined		Infected		Examined		Infected	
Central Office ...	5,761	444	97	445	213	1,131	688	1,620	1,010	1,265	790	585	342	189	110	71	41	5,750	3,291	
Savane ...	15,471	1,300	844	1,149	863	1,839	1,406	1,827	1,394	1,274	964	931	701	433	334	175	141	8,928	6,647	
Plaines Wilhems ...	59,426	4,408	2,801	5,513	3,862	5,837	4,113	4,429	2,998	3,264	2,202	1,964	1,306	931	603	502	322	26,848	18,207	
Moka ...	975	184	125	138	101	178	141	171	126	133	119	80	56	32	22	13	8	929	689	
Black River ...	3,693	316	165	605	366	551	355	494	298	335	210	161	95	83	53	27	14	2,572	1,556	
'Total ...	85,326	6,652	4,032	7,850	5,405	9,536	6,703	8,541	5,826	6,271	4,276	3,721	2,500	1,668	1,122	788	526	45,027	30,390	

		Classification by Race						Other Helminths						Treatments				Re-examinations after treatment						Census	
		Mixed		Indian		Chinese		White		Infected	Examined	Infected	Examined	Infected	Examined	Infected	Examined	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative		
Census	Examined		Infected		Examined		Infected		Examined		Infected		Examined		Infected		Examined		Infected		Examined		Infected		
Central Office ...	2,728	1,160	2,737	2,048	130	59	155	24	1,837	4,949	...	12	...	404	98	55	4	561	4	42	...	9	15	66	
Savane ...	1,770	1,343	7,115	5,274	41	30	2	...	4,973	3,565	5	4	1	7,559	560	49	66	8,168	66	143	...	251	...	394	
Plaines Wilhems ...	7,680	4,548	18,679	13,463	252	144	237	52	14,980	6,917	33	84	9	10,180	1,383	122	136	11,687	136	393	...	300	...	693	
Moka ...	130	73	794	616	5	...	...	...	355	70	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black River ...	795	476	1,759	1,071	18	9	...	...	829	397	8	16	2	769	...	...	...	769	...	...	...	...	...	...
'Total ...	13,103	7,600	31,084	22,472	446	242	394	76	22,974	15,898	47	116	12	18,912	2,041	226	206	21,185	560	578	111	560	15	1,153	

The year under review has provided :

45,027 faecal specimens for examination of which
30,390 have been found infected with hookworm,
18,912 individuals have received treatment,
2,041 a second time,
226 a third,
6 a fourth, making a total of

21,185 treatments administered during the period.

The above number includes 929 samples from the Moka district, but no treatments were given in this area. Most of the specimens examined are found to be infected with *ascaries lumbricoides* and *trichocephalus dispar* as well. Eggs of other parasites not often found are the *oxyuris*, *strongyloides* and *tænia*.

Vermifuges used are carbon tetrachloride and oil of chenopodium. Toxic symptoms not ending fatally have occurred in seven cases. Death following treatment has taken place in two cases, a post-mortem being performed upon one.

The attendance at the central laboratory shows an increased interest in the campaign and the people are becoming more and more alive to the good effects of worm treatment.

BERI-BERI.

2 deaths from this disease were registered in 1925 against 3 in 1924, 5 in 1923, 17 in 1922, 71 in 1921 and 29 in 1920. 15 cases were treated in hospital, one of which proved fatal.

ITCH (SCABIES).

89 cases received hospital treatment against 117 in 1924 and 154 in 1923.

MENTAL DISEASES.

Mental diseases are specially and fully reported upon in Appendix V (report by the Superintendent, Mental Hospital).

11 deaths from Epilepsy were registered during the year in the whole Colony.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The following table shows the hospital admissions and deaths for certain diseases not already referred to :—

Diseases	Admissions	Deaths	Case mortality %
Nephritis	653	111	17
Cellulitis & abscess	1164	11	0.94
Gonorrhoea	116	...	...
Bilharzia haematobia	71	1	1.4

(81 cases of Bilharzia have received treatment at the Dispensaries.)

The table hereunder shows compared, with 1924 the number of deaths from various diseases or accidents registered in 1925 for the whole Colony :—

Diseases or Accidents	1924	1925
Whooping cough	35	18
Septicaemia	36	43
Tetanus	48	49
Rickets	4	4
Diabetes	21	15
Convulsions (non puerperal, 5 years & over)	14	19
Infantile Convulsions (under 5 years)	100	108
Empyema	2	1
Pleurisy	10	6
Apoplexy	1	...
Pulmonary Oedema & congestion	11	13
Gangrene of the lung	6	3
Asthma	59	63
Gastro-enteritis	93	151
Appendicitis	9	1
Hernia	19	15
Bright's disease	315	303
Nephritis (10 years & over) and Uraemia	170	191

V.—Port and Quarantine

250 vessels called at the harbour of Port Louis in 1925. The distribution is as under :—

	Sailing crafts	Steamers
British vessels - - -	14	154
Foreign - - -	...	82
	14	236 = 250

The crew in steamers (British and Foreign) numbered 23,641 and that in sailing crafts 182. The number of passengers examined in steamers was 3,205 and that in sailing crafts 320.

Pratique was given to 188 vessels immediately on arrival, while one vessel coming from infected ports was only admitted to pratique after disinfection of linen and effects of passengers and crew and fumigation of the fore-castle and 39 others also coming from infected ports, were admitted to pratique after disinfection of linen, and effects of passengers and crew and claytonisation of the cargo. The number of vessels refusing pratique and taking coal etc. in strict quarantins was 22.

20 outgoing vessels were claytonised on request of the owners or agents on account of the prevalence of plague in the Colony.

The revenue accruing to the Department in connection with claytonisation of vessels and operations at the Harbour Disinfecting Station amounted Rs. 6,113.36.

The S.S. "JAPAN" which arrived in Mauritius on the 10th January, 1925, from Calcutta and Colombo, had one case of small-pox on board. The patient (a deck passenger) and 10 contacts were landed at Flat Island Quarantine Station on the 13th January. The vessel was allowed to disembark its cargo in quarantine, at the inner quarantine anchorage. The quarantine was raised 13 days later, after thorough disinfection and fumigation of the vessel and claytonisation of the cargo.

The quarantine at Flat Island was partly raised on the 26th January and finally on the 10th February when the small-pox patient proceeded to Port Louis completely cured.

The S.S. "COLABA" reached this port on the 18th March, 1925 from Calcutta and Colombo, with a case of small-pox among the crew, detected on the 9th March. The patient, the 6 passengers and the 3rd engineer were landed at Flat Island Quarantine Station with their effects.

The usual measures of vaccination of passengers and crew were taken, and the steamer disinfected and fumigated and the cargo claytonised. The vessel was allowed to disembark its cargo in strict quarantine at the inner quarantine anchorage. Pratique was given on the 31st March. On the 1st April, the patient being completely cured, the passengers and members of the crew detained at Flat Island were allowed to proceed to Port Louis.

Cannoniers' Point Quarantine Station was not used for quarantine purposes during the year under review.

From the 14th to the 31st January the station was utilised for grouping the immigrants returning to India. About 372 immigrants, members of the Police Force, Sanitary Staff, and the Immigration Department stayed at the Station in that connection.

VI.—Hospitals

Mental Hospital.—The Mental Hospital is under complete reorganization. A scheme has been put up for the taking over of the Barkly Asylum grounds.

The question of criminal mental patients requires to be settled in the light of experience acquired and the provision of separate accommodation for criminal and dangerous lunatics demands early attention.

The number of patients in 1925 was 587 against 554 in 1924. Alcohol still plays an important role in the number of admissions especially amongst the men, but it is noticeable that since the Law was passed preventing the importation and sale of gandia, there is a marked decrease from that cause.

During 1925 Government voted Rs. 198,400 for improvements of accommodation and equipment to the Mental Hospital and this work which is so essential has already been started, so that in the near future the Mental Hospital will have the necessary bedding and equipment.

During the year special baths and water heating plant have been ordered from England, meanwhile temporary arrangements have been made. Several important innovations are still necessary, the chief being namely, workshops in order to give occupation to convalescents and play an important part in curative treatment. Although patients are now allowed more recreation, no vocational training or work is undertaken, with the result that time hangs heavily on their hands.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.

The year has been one of considerable progress with regard to hospital buildings, equipment and nursing staff.

Moka Hospital has been further improved thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of Dr. G. Leclézio.

During the year 120 hospital beds from England were supplied. Mattresses, blankets, sheets and patients' clothing have been renewed on a large scale.

A Laboratory Assistant, trained at the Bacteriological Laboratory, Reduit, has been placed at Victoria Hospital and it is proposed to extend the scheme to the Civil Hospital.

It is the aim of this department to treat the rural district hospitals, except Victoria and Moka Hospitals, at clearing stations and to send all major surgical cases to Civil, Victoria or Moka Hospital as may be most convenient. With this end in view an up-to-date comfortable Ambulance will be necessary.

As X ray plant has been installed at Moka hospital at Dr. Leclézio's expense whilst the X ray plant ordered for Victoria hospital is expected to arrive at an early date.

At the beginning of Chapter IV, a comparison is made of the number of hospital admissions, hospital outdoor cases and dispensary cases for the five years 1921–1925.

The table hereunder summarises the work of the hospitals during 1925.
The corresponding figures in respect of the year 1924 are also shown for easy comparison.

REPORT ON HOSPITAL WORK FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Hospitals	Patients remaining on 31.12.24			New admissions			Deaths			Patients remaining on 31.12.25			No. of beds	No. of patients on any date during 1925		Medical cases	Surgical cases	No. of operations	Particular diseases causing largest No. of admissions	Particular diseases causing largest No. of death	Outdoor cases	
	P*	F*	To- tal	P	F	Total	P	F	To- tal	P	F	To- tal										
Civil ...	24	123	147	1,171	4,583	5,754	26	279	305	20	117	137	340	296	142	3,542	2,259	905	Influenza, Malaria, Bronchitis, Nephritis, Enteritis and Anaemia.	Tubercle, Pneumonia, Enteritis, Influenza and Nephritis.	1,421	
Port Louis Prison	4	4	...	109	109	4	4	16	9	1	77	32	5	5	Nil	...	1,582
Long Mountain ...	1	30	31	64	1,184	1,248	1	58	59	...	23	23	60	59	23	969	150	130	Malaria, Dysentery, Pulmonary tuberculosis.	Pulmonary and other form of Tuberculosis	3,492	
Poudre d'Or	...	15	15	44	1,486	1,480	...	56	56	...	28	28	70	79	9	1,250	230	160	Malarial fever	Nephritis	796	
Flacq ...	3	21	24	75	1,239	1,314	2	40	42	...	19	19	78	81	19	1,112	245	124	Bronchitis	...	305	
Mahébourg	4	32	36	97	1,967	2,064	4	79	83	3	28	31	102	99	31	1,648	452	302	Influenza, Malarial fever	...	5,940	
Souillac	...	24	24	62	1,590	1,652	5	59	64	...	16	16	76	72	16	1,175	477	116	Ankylostomiasis	...	859	
Victoria	7	85	92	152	3,898	4,050	...	189	189	5	65	70	244	212	86	2,550	1,500	583	Ankylostomiasis and Nephritis	...	3,780	
Mental...	3	32	35	10	330	340	...	20	20	...	14	14	47	19	3	238	102	41	Malaria, Epilepsy and Influenza	...	323	
Beau Bassin Prison	...	5	5	...	392	392	...	2	2	...	6	6	32	16	2	311	97	51	Malaria, Abscess and Diarrhoea...	...	1,099	
Barkly Industrial ...	...	...	...	...	42	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	14	1	40	2	2	Chicken-pox	...	21
School
Moka ...	2	11	13	364	1,001	1,365	9	14	23	5	15	20	85	90	13	388	977	915	Diseases of the digestive system	Diseases of the digestive system	...	
Total ...	44	382	426	2,039	17,771	19,810	47	796	843	33	335	368	1,162	...	...	13,300	6,523	3,334	...	...	19,621
Total for 1924...	34	341	375	2,494	16,169	18,663	86	872	958	68	358	426	1,125	...	...	12,933	5,847	2,953	...	...	15,570

*P means paying, F means free.

VII.—Sanitation.

SOIL SANITATION AND CONSERVANCY

The Soil Sanitation Campaign has been pushed on very energetically throughout the year 1925.

The new Regulations embodying the main requirements of premises with regard to latrines (excluding those provided with septic tanks ; and in the case of Port Louis, those already provided with the water-carriage system) published in December, 1924 under Government Notification No. 297 and which apply to the whole island have been made applicable to Estates within the meaning of the Labour Ordinance, 1922.

The following table showing the position as on the 31st December 1925 is a good picture of the work hitherto accomplished by this department towards the prevention of soil pollution :—

District	Pit Latrine				Pail Latrine				Total			
	No. required	No. completed	No. started but incomplete	No. not started	No. required	No. completed	No. started but incomplete	No. not started	No. required	No. completed	No. started but incomplete	No. not started
Port Louis ...	666	652	11	3	3,318	535	12	2,771	3,984	1,187	23	2,774
Pamplemousses ...	4,600	4,365	23	212	216	216	.	...	4,816	4,581	23	212
Rivière du Rempart ...	2,214	2,169	9	36	1,066	95	50	921	3,280	2,264	59	957
Flacq Northern Section ...	3,154	3,061	13	80	972	714	43	215	4,126	3,775	56	295
Flacq Southern Section ...	1,847	1,640	166	41	1,009	536	91	382	2,856	2,176	257	423
Moka ...	2,379	2,359	20	...	1,820	1,820	...	...	4,199	4,179	20	...
Plaines Wilhems (Vacoas-Phoenix) ...	2,300	2,298	2	...	315	310	...	5	2,615	2,608	2	5
Plaines Wilhems (B. Bassin, R. Hill, Q. Bornes) ...	3,777	3,661	4	112	172	24	72	76	3,949	3,685	76	188
Grand Port (Mahébourg) ...	2,150	2,109	24	17	270	261	...	9	2,420	2,370	24	26
Grand Port (Rose Belle) ...	3,120	3,099	19	2	345	343	...	2	3,465	3,442	19	4
Savanne ...	3,215	3,104	26	85	912	895	8	9	4,127	3,999	34	94
Black River ...	825	659	76	90	250	...	...	250	1,075	659	76	340
Total ...	30,247	29,176	393	678	10,665	5,749	276	4,640	40,912	34,925	669	5,318

It has not yet been possible to provide the hamlet of Crève Cœur (in the district of Pamplemousses) where neither pit nor pail latrines would have been practicable, with concrete vault sanitary privies.

The supply of metal pails has been continued and it is expected that the complete elimination of wooden pails will be achieved at an early date.

The Night Soil Service is performed by Government in Port Louis, Curepipe, Rose Belle, New Grove, Mare d'Albert and Mahébourg. In other places the service is performed by contractors responsible to the Medical and Health Department, except in the cases of Beau Bassin, Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes townships. The contractors are chosen by and responsible to the respective Board of Commissioners in the latter cases. Thro' the extension of the Soil Sanitation Campaign, many localities where pit latrines cannot safely be permitted and where no service was previously performed, have had to be provided with a pail service. The work is entrusted to Contractors.

The last Engrais at work in Mauritius has been finally closed.

Where the method of disposal is not by means of septic tanks, as for the eastern part of Port Louis (Paul and Virginia Street septic tank) and for Curepipe or by tipping in the main sewer (Tipping Chamber, Cassis) for part of Port Louis, deep trenching is adopted.

In the reports of the various local Sanitary Authorities (Appendices I—IV) the local aspects of the question are explained.

Pit latrines are not dug when any possibility of pollution of sub-soil water is foreseen.

The regulations provide for the approval of the sites by the Director, Medical and Health Department. Usually the site is chosen by the local Sanitary Authority or with his approval.

The experience gained during the year clearly proved that pit latrines with proper fly proof covers and with regular oiling do obviate any fly nuisance. Crude oil was extensively tried and proved satisfactory. The Medical Department organized a service for the systematic periodical oiling of pit latrines everywhere except on Estates, in which case the oiling is done by the estate personnel.

Septic tanks for individual premises have been installed in recent years on several premises in the principal townships of Plaines Wilhems, particularly Curepipe and in a few cases in other districts e.g. Moka. Amended regulations relative to the construction of septic tanks were put into force in 1925.

The water carriage system in Port Louis has received the constant and special attention of the Public Works Department during the past year.

The work on the main sewerage scheme progressed steadily during the year.

The excreta deposited into the main sewer at the Tipping Chamber, Cassis is conveyed to sea direct. The discharge is at a point 810 feet from high water mark and has not been the cause of any complaint.

About 1,300 premises in the central and western parts of Port Louis are connected with the water carriage system. They were regularly inspected in 1925.

The maximum power of the pumping station being fully employed with the existing connections, no extensions are made for the present.

It is to be hoped that the Sewerage scheme for the Beau Bassin-Curepipe area may be carried out without further delay.

SCAVENGING

Scavenging service is performed by Government in Port Louis, Curepipe, Rose Belle, New Grove, Mare d'Albert and Mahebourg. In other localities the service is entrusted to contractors responsible to the Medical and Health Department except for the townships of Beau-Bassin, Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes, in which cases the respective Board of Commissioners chooses the contractor. The refuse is mostly disposed of by burning. In a few cases it has served to fill in hollows and marshes, thus getting rid of mosquito-breeding places at a cheap cost.

The service has not been constantly satisfactory in the case of contractors.

The benefit of a scavenging service has during the year under review been extended to various villages and hamlets.

The service in Port Louis has been improved in the light of the experience gained during the period 1921-1924 and motor vehicles are gradually introduced doing away with bullock carts and the large personnel they entail. It is anticipated that apart from the sanitary improvement the present mode of working will show appreciable savings on the expenditure incurred hitherto on that account.

WATER SUPPLY

The water-supply of Port Louis is derived from Grand River North West and Bathurst Canal. Government establishments and some private firms and buildings are provided with Mare-aux-Vacoas water. The first two supplies of water are unfit and unsafe. It is hoped that the Chlorination Plant erected at Pailles, in the bed of Grand River N. W. will soon start working and that filtered chlorinated water will be substituted for the crude, impure water that 95% of the inhabitants of Port Louis are obliged to consume.

In Pamplemousses, the supply from canals and rivers (Calebasses River included) is of suspicious quality but that from Le Plessis spring is fairly good and the water drawn from wells is of fair quality. The supply from Bassin Loulou spring has been found not to be wholesome. The hamlet of Triolet is provided with a piped supply from a pumping station at St. André well.

Rivière du Rempart has good supplies from caves and wells except those derived from canals and rivers which are bad. The pumping station at Goodlands has been completed. Pipes have been laid from La Cave to Grand Gaube and from Sottise to Grand Bay.

In populous hamlets in Flacq district, the supply is of fair quality, derived from River Dubois and Rivulets Jamblon and Monneron. In out of the way localities, the water is drawn from wells, springs and rivers and is generally not good. The supply of Trou d'Eau Douce has been improved and pipe extensions laid to St. Julien, Camp Caboche, Camp Ythier and Camp des Pêcheurs. New public fountains have been put up at Médine.

In Grand Port, the supply from Bé-Manique River is good but has proved inadequate and on several occasions has flowed intermittently. Water derived from wells, springs Rivulet Délices and River des Créoles is of fair quality, but in other cases it is very bad e. g., the supply of Old Grand Port, Grand Sable and Petit Sable.

In Savane, Rivers des Anguilles and Patate and other rivers, with wells and canals, constitute the principal sources of water supply. The pipe supplies of Chemin Grenier and Souillac have proved inadequate during the dry season. Most of the wells and springs supplying water are liable to pollution and the water is bad.

In his report (Appendix IV), the Sanitary Warden (South) specially refers to the primordial requirements of the districts under his charge.

In Black River the public fountains supply fairly good water but the water from rivers, wells and canals is liable to pollution during heavy rain. At Bambous and Clarens the supply has been improved by the provision of additional public fountains. At Chamarel springs and rivers afford a good supply and indigenous water-borne diseases have been unknown for years in the locality.

Cascavelle and Flic-en-Flacq are in urgent need of a reliable water-supply; unwhole-, some water is now generally consumed in these localities. Tamarind Bay hamlet has seen its supply improved during the year.

As regards the domestic water-supply, the districts of Plaines Wilhems and Moka, using mostly the Mare-aux-Vacoas water, have the best supply available.

In the extra-urban area of Plaines Wilhems and in the upper parts of Moka district, the supply is derived from wells and rivers and is not good in most cases.

The fact that the water-supply is a most important factor towards the health of a community is now almost universally realized in Mauritius. The various District Boards have taken the question in hand and the water supplies of country districts are being largely improved and extended mostly by piped supplies from pure sources or unpolluted springs and rivers.

During the year Government Bacteriologist carried out monthly examinations of the Mare-aux-Vacoas water and reported on the 16th February that from the results a sudden deterioration had taken place in the quality of the filtered water supplied from Mare-aux-Vacoas water works and that a sample of raw water taken at the same time showed a lower bacterial count than the filtered water, thus pointing to defective filtration as the source of the trouble. Reports having been received of cases of acute vomiting and diarrhoea among consumers of this water, *Bacillus coli* was found in 5 cc. in January as well as pyocyaneus-like organisms. In February an improvement was shown in the quality of the filtered water, but this improvement was not maintained during the month of March when *Bacillus coli* was found present in 10 cc. The Government Bacteriologist considered that much of the evil was caused by over-rapidity of filtration, and instructions were issued to the Public Works Department to bring down the rate of filtration in each filter bed.

It was admitted that the 7 filter beds were overworked, and the Public Works Department recommended that three additional filters should be constructed to allow of a high standard of purity and to enable the Public Works Department to cope with the demand to meet the excessive consumption during the dry season.

The quality of the water did not improve during April, *Bacillus coli* being found in 10 cc. Steps were taken after consulting with Government to advise all consumers to boil their drinking water and notices were sent to all the newspapers.

In May the filters were worked at a moderate rate and although the total number of bacteria per cc. was still unusually large, a marked improvement in *Bacillus coli* occurred, as no coli was found in 100 cc. This improvement was not however maintained in June or July as *Bacillus coli* communior were again found in 5 cc.

In August the Public Works Department informed me that every possible attention was given to the filters and that the construction of the new filters were being carried out. In August a marked improvement occurred and no *Bacillus coli* was found in 100cc. The Government Bacteriologist and Analyst considered it possibly due to favourable weather conditions (rainy season) but was more inclined to regard the improvement as a result of slower filtration, consequent on reduced consumption.

In September a fall in the purity of the water was again noted: *Bacillus coli* was found in 50 cc. Whilst in October a further fall in the quality of the water occurred, *Bacillus coli* being found in 5 cc. probably due to increased rate of filtration.

The examination for November again showed *Bacillus coli* in 5 cc., whilst the examination of the water for December showed *Bacillus coli* communior present in 10 cc.

From the foregoing it is evident that during the dry season, owing to the larger consumption of water and to the amount of water used to water gardens, the source of water supply which is considered the best in Mauritius should be safeguarded and steps should be taken to disallow of the watering of gardens by hose during the dry months, as well as the fact that all consumers would be well advised to boil their drinking water.

The following is a list of further works carried out in districts in 1925 by the Public Works Department in connection with domestic water supplies—

- (1) Camp Diable, new scheme, 5 miles in length, water from Rivière des Anguilles, extended from Britannia Estate.
- (2) Chemin Grenier and Chamouny. Improvements by laying bigger pipes &c.
- (3) Grand Port, water improvements—same as No. 2.
- (4) Goodlands, new scheme, water taken from well—Distance 2 miles.
- (5) Grand Gaube and Grand Bay—Improvements.
- (6) Constance d'Arifat—extension from Ruisseau Jamblon piping 6,000 feet.]
- (7) Short extensions have been made to provide water at
 - (a) Médine,
 - (b) Camp Rameau,
 - (c) Brisée Verdière cemetery.

ANTI-MALARIAL WORKS (MINOR).

The reports of the Medical Officers of Health and Sanitary Wardens, Appendices I-IV, deal in detail with the anti-malarial work, in the various districts.

The work has consisted mainly in the maintenance of existing works, repairing of damage done by animals and floods, clearing of marshy lands, filling up of quarry pits and weedy pools and ponds, planting of grass in former river or stream beds and petrolisation of large marshes.

The use of Paris green as a larvicide has been introduced as a routine measure. The mixture of Paris green and road dust is spread over stagnant water, by means of a pair of bellows, in pools, marshes and hollows. Experience shows that Paris green was reliable in canals and drains where the edges or banks are clear. Some doubt however exists where the banks or edges have overlapping grass. Further, it is still doubtful that Paris green has any effect on pupæ or on the eggs.

The brief summary hereunder shows the results of Paris green:—

“A pool of stagnant water on the bank of Pouce stream near the bridge of Junction Street, Tranquebar was selected for the experiment.

The pool contained *Costalis* Larvæ and measured 20 feet × 3 feet.

A mixture of one part of Paris green and three parts of flour was dusted over the water at 1.30 p.m.

At 6 p.m. the pool was controlled and dead larvæ were found.

Next morning at 6 a.m. the pool was again controlled and it was found that all the larvæ had been killed."

All moustiquiers and cantonniers were given instructions to use Paris green and are doing so.

The staff of trained moustiquiers did good work in the search of mosquito-breeding places all over the island.

Reference has been made under Malaria, in Chapter IV, to the Malaria Campaign it has been proposed to carry out with a view to the eradication of malaria from the Colony.

ANTI-MALARIAL WORKS (MAJOR)

The anti-malarial works of importance, in connection with which expenditure was incurred during the year are shown hereunder :—

Drain Bell Village	Port Louis
<i>Drainage of marshes :</i>	
1. Cannoniers Point	Pamplemousses
2. Cap Malheureux	Rivière du Rempart
3. Rivière du Poste	Flacq
4. Plaine Magnien and Mare d'Albert	Grand Port
Mahebourg former fish pond—filling in	"
Ruisseau Sec, preliminary surveys	"
Pointe d'Esny—filling in marshes	"
River Savanne "	Savanne
Riambel "	"
Drainage around Candos Hill	Plaines Wilhems
" near Curepipe old Slaughter House... ..	"

HALF-MILE BELT ROUND PORT LOUIS

During the year Government acquired the land in Vallée Pitot except about 180 small holdings which could not be located *in situ*.

No further clearing could consequently be undertaken. The portions of land on Spear Grass Peak, Monneron Hill and Discovery Mountain previously cleared were upkeep during the year.

Experiments were made in the half mile belt to destroy cactus with arsenite of soda solution.

EXPERIMENTS FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF CACTUS BY A SOLUTION OF ARSENITE OF SODA

An area of about 100 sq. yards of large cactus on the slope of Spear Grass Peak was injected with a 2½% solution of Arsenite of Soda and carefully watched.

(2) After about 4 to 5 days the plants turned yellow and began to wither and it was observed that in 14 days the cactus was killed.

(3) Although the plants were in putrefaction they were not dry enough to be burned to complete their destruction.

(4) At the end of 3 weeks an attempt was made to burn the cactus but it was observed that it was still too wet to have any success.

(5) The cost of the above is calculated at Rs. 284 per acre but in my opinion it can be done for much less.

(6) It must be remembered that this experiment is based on an area of 100 sq. yards covered with cactus whilst in practice it is generally found that there are only patches here and there of the plants.

(7) Regarding the time required to dry the cactus I am of opinion that even in very dry weather it would take one month to be ready for burning after the injection of the solution.

(8) I may mention that the above experiment has been carried out in the wet season but nevertheless I am of opinion that we have had a fair measure of success.

The work will be continued during the dry season and a 5% solution arsenite of soda will be used instead of 2½%.

SCHOOLS

The Government and State Primary Schools are, as a rule, visited at least twice during the year by the Health Officers. The average district spleen-rates for 1925 are given in Chapter IV, under Malaria.

In Port Louis, the inspection of schools is made on methods devised by Dr. A. Balfour and the present Director. The report of the Medical Inspector is given in Appendix VII. The report on the schools in Plaines Wilhems is given in Appendix II, the report by the Medical Officer of Health for Plaines Wilhems.

The blood-examination of school pupils in respect to malarial parasites is also regularly performed by a trained microscopist. The findings of the tests made during 1925 have been shown under Malaria, in Chapter IV.

As a general rule, the school buildings are buildings which were not constructed for that purpose, and for which they are quite unfitted for the purpose they are now used for. Many of the present school buildings should be condemned. The school latrines, as a result of the Soil Sanitation Campaign, are in several districts good and generally well upkept, but there still remain numerous cases where improvements are urgently needed.

CONTRAVENTION AND PROSECUTIONS

The number of contraventions detected by the Sanitary Officers in 1925 was 4,370. They gave rise to 2,605 prosecutions, resulting in fines amounting to Rs. 9,253.90 Cs.

26,669 notices, orders and requests were served under the various sanitary ordinances and regulations. Of these, 3,693 were not complied with and led to 1,596 prosecutions. The fines inflicted amounted to Rs. 5,617.10 Cs.

MARKETS, ABATTOIRS AND CEMETERIES

MARKETS

Government manages two markets: one at Mahebourg and the other at Pamplémousses village. The latter is scarcely used, as the existing regulations do not prohibit fish-hawking, vegetable selling and the opening of meat-shops outside and in the immediate neighbourhood of the market.

A third market situated at Central Flacq was finally opened in February, 1926.

The revenue derived from the markets was as under, showing an increase Rs. 731. 85 compared with 1924.

Markets		Revenue	
		1924	1925
Pamplémousses	- -	Rs. 21.30	Rs. 18.45
Mahébourg	- -	1,897.50	2,632.20
Total	- -	Rs. 1,918.80	Rs. 2,650.65

ABATTOIRS

The Medical and Health Department manages three (3) Abattoirs viz. Mahébourg, Souillac and Pamplémousses. The revenue derived from them was as under, showing a decrease of Rs. 251. 50, as compared with 1924 :—

Abattoir		Revenue	
		1924	1925
Pamplémousses	- - -	Rs. 1,235.00	Rs. 1,289.50
Mahébourg	- - -	2,293.50	2,040.50
Souillac	- - -	1,128.00	1,075.00
Total	- -	Rs. 4,656.50	Rs. 4,405.00

The table hereunder shows the number of cattle and other animals slaughtered and seizures made in 1925 at the various slaughter houses of the Colony.

Slaughter House	No. of animals slaughtered		No. of seizures made.	
Port Louis (Municipal)*	...	12,050	...	48
Pamplémousses*	...	527	...	.....
Flacq { Central Flacq†	...	633	...	.....
{ St. Julien†	...	134	...	7 (4 partial in addition)
Grand Port { Mahébourg*	...	1,063	...	5 (23 partial in addition)
{ Rose Belle†	...	546	...	3 (8 partial in addition)
Savanne { Riv. des Anguilles†	...	73	...	.....
{ Souillac*	...	460	...	6 (partial)
Black River—Bambous*	...	164	...	7 (partial)
Plaines Wilhems { Rose Hill*	...	5,344	...	31 (1 partial in addition)
{ Curepipe§	...	2,835	...	10
Moka—St. Pierre†	...	797	...	9 (19 partial in addition)
Whole Colony	...	24,626	...	.....

* Public Abattoirs.

† Private Abattoirs.

‡ Rose Belle has two private abattoirs.

§ Public abattoir opened towards the end of 1925.

CEMETERIES.

The public cemeteries under the direct charge of the Medical and Health Department total 20, distributed as under.

The fees collected show a decrease of Rs. 2,896.84 as compared with 1924.

The decrease is due to the decrease in the number of deaths.

District and Sanitary Section	No. of Govt. cemeteries	Revenue		Remarks
		1924	1925	
		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	
Pamplemousses ...	1	3,746.50	2,859.50	
Rivière du Rempart ...	3	1,584.50	1,130....	
Flacq ...	4	261....	190.50	Northern Section Southern Section
		1,743.50	1,539.50	
Grand Port—Rose Belle Section ...	1	1,392....	1,014....	
do. Mahébourg do. ...	1*	632....	564....	* Plus one closed at Old Grand Port
Savanne ...	3	2,157....	1,876....	
Black River ...	3	1,004....	694.50	
Plaines Wilhems—B. Bassin—				
do. R. Hill—Quatre Bornes ...	1	761....	874.16	
do. Phoenix—Vacoas ...	1	2,752.16	2,432.66	
Moka ...	2	1,180....	1,142....	
Total...	20	17,213.66	14,316.82	

Brisée Verdière Cemetery, in Flacq, was opened on the 16th November, 1925 and Rose Belle Cemetery was opened on the 1st March, 1926.

VIII.—Training and Education

SANITARY STAFF

The classes of instruction which were started 3 years ago have been well maintained. Much time has been devoted to the training of the Junior Staff. Regular classes of instruction were held by the Sanitary Warden for the Southern districts, and the Medical Officers of Health for Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems. The control and prophylaxis of infectious disease, the principles of disinfection, the alleviation of nuisances, elementary drainage and Malaria were among the principal subjects dealt with. The work was based on the syllabus of subjects for examinations for the Sanitary Inspector's certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute (England).

Emphasis was laid on the more important branches of current work and every endeavour was made to render each employé familiar with his routine duties.

Lectures on the elementary mathematics of hygiene were given by Chief Inspector Purvis. That important branch of sanitary work hitherto neglected in Mauritius should bear good results in the future when Sanitary Inspectors and Guards will have at least some idea of the practical application of their knowledge which is the minimum that Medical Officers of Health and Sanitary Wardens can be expected to accept.

In October 1925 an examination for the certificate of competency as Sanitary Inspector was held under the auspices of the Royal Sanitary Institute (England).—15 candidates presented themselves of whom 9 were successful (Appendix IX).

The utmost credit is due to these officers (one of whom belongs to the Prisons Department) and it is hoped that in the near future every Inspector will qualify and obtain that certificate which is recognized by Government Authorities in the Overseas Dominions. It should be a *sine qua non* condition before promotion is given that officers should be able to produce a certificate of that kind.

The healthy rivalry which exists between the Medical Men in charge of the various sections of the island augurs well and it is hoped that the system that has existed hitherto of promotion without reference to zeal and ability will become a thing of the past.

NURSING STAFF

During 1925, 14 students (9 males, 5 females) were admitted into hospitals for training as Warders and Dispensers and Nurses. One male student was admitted under the regulations in force prior to the coming into force of the regulations published under G. N. No. 10 of the 17th January, 1925.

2 male students resigned during the year ; one male and one female student previously under the old regulations were admitted under the new regulations.

On the 31st December 1925, the number and distribution of students undergoing training was as under :—

Hospital		Males	Females	Total
Civil	...	6	5	11
Long Mountain	...	1	...	1
Poudre d'Or	...	1	2	3
Flacq	...	2	...	2
Mahébourg	...	5	1	6
Souillac	...	1	1	2
Victoria	...	8	3	11
Moka	...	3	3	6
	Total	27	15	42

With a view to recruiting a better class of students, new regulations were published under G. N. No. 10 of the 17th January, 1925. At the same time to attract the desired class of students, an allowance has been provided in the estimates of this Department as from the 1st July 1924. The allowance is at the rate of Rs. 240 p.a. for the 1st year of training and Rs. 360 for the 2nd year (the ordinary course of training is 2 years).

It is hoped that these privileges will be fully availed of in the next future.

The result of the examinations held in 1925 is given in Appendix IX.

The training of midwives has been fully reported upon in Chapter III. Midwifery and Child Welfare.

15 pupil-midwives were undergoing training on the 31st December 1925, 11 at the Civil Hospital and 4 at Victoria Hospital.

HYGIENE LECTURES TO TEACHING STAFF OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

In 1925, over 600 members (of both sexes) belonging to the Teaching staff of primary schools attended the series of lectures on hygiene which were delivered by the Director and these will be compiled in a Manual on Hygiene.

Lectures were delivered every Saturday in Curepipe Royal College, in the period extending from May to November 14th.

Special attention was directed towards Hookworm, Plague and Malaria, the means by which these diseases are spread and the personal and general measures that should be taken to avoid infection.

Valuable work has been done since the department has received the cinema films on The Rat Menace, Malaria, Swat that Fly, Hookworm.

LECTURES ON FIRST AID TO THE INJURED.

During the year Dr. Barbeau, Superintendent of the Bacteriological Laboratory, Dr. Momplé, Asst. Director and Dr. Sibley, M.O.H. Plaines Wilhems delivered a series of lectures on First Aid to the Injured to several members of the Police Force grouped in 3 sections in Moka, Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems.

PRACTICAL MICROSCOPY

At the Bacteriological Laboratory arrangements have been carried out to train Government medical officers in practical microscopy.

RESULTS OF TEACHING

The results of teaching in 1925 are summed up as follows. Passes were obtained by:

Midwives	...	12
Warders	...	9
Nurses	...	9
Sanitary Inspectors	...	9

IX.—The Civil Medical Stores

The following tabular statement summarises the transactions of the Medical Stores during the year 1925.

(1) Cost of drugs, chemicals etc. and repairs to instruments and appliances etc.	Rs.	c.
	131,801.94	
(2) Value of drugs, chemicals, instruments etc. issued to Government institutions	93,010.21	
(3) Value of disinfectants, sera, vaccine etc. issued in connection with Plague and other contagious diseases	24,266.04	
(4) Amount realised by sale of medicines, vaccine and sera to private medical practitioners and value received for loss and damage to instruments issued to Institutions	4,159.08	
(5) Quantity of quinine issued	17,404 oz. 95gr.	
(6) Cost of quinine issued	Rs. 28,504.23	
(7) Institutions to which drugs in general are issued :—		
Hospitals	12	
Dispensaries	29	
Charitable institutions	10	
Schools	128	
Police Stations	54	
Government Institutions	15	

X.—Administration

A list of the Senior Medical Staff of the Department is given in Appendix VIII.

Dr. H. André has been appointed, on three years' probation, to the post of District Medical Officer, Pamplémousses, in the room of Dr. M. S. H. Camal Boudou, deceased in 1924.

Dr. R. Laventure, provisional Assistant Medical Superintendent, Mental Hospital, resigned his appointment on 28.2.25 and Dr. E. Portal, pensioner, was provisionally re-employed in that capacity from 1.3.25.

Dr. J. B. Kirk, M.O.H. Port Louis, whose appointment was made permanent during the year, was granted 9 months leave of absence to be spent out of the Colony. He left for Europe on the 23rd September, 1925 on sick leave. The duties of M.O.H. Port Louis are performed by the Director, Medical & Health Department during his absence.

Dr. R. O. Sibley, M.O.H. Plaines Wilhems, on three years' agreement, left the Colony on the termination of his period of service. He was granted three months leave of absence on full pay from the latter date viz : 7th December, 1925.

Dr. F. J. R. Momplé, Assistant Director Medical & Health Department, was then appointed to act as Medical Officer of Health, Plaines Wilhems. It is proposed to bring the latter post on the permanent establishment next financial year.

Mr. J. B. Pérille, Chief Clerk of the Department, retired on pension on the 1st June 1925 after about 44 years faithful and diligent service under Government, 30 of which in the Medical & Health Department. His successor is Mr. N. D. Lutchmaya, of the Procureur General's Department.

Dr. W. Dupré, Resident Medical Officer, Victoria Hospital, left for England in August, 1925 on study leave. He has been granted a Government scholarship for the purpose of specializing in Surgery and X-ray work. The course of his studies is to take about 18 months.

Dr. I. Humbert has been appointed to act in his stead at Victoria Hospital, as from the 13th August, 1925.

Dr. D. D. Anderson, appointed Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases Officer, under a 3 years' agreement, embarked for Mauritius on the 9th November, 1925 and assumed duty on 13th December.

Dr. D. I. Abraham's three years' agreement was extended for a short period and terminated finally on the 9th July, 1925.

Dr. E. Rama was employed provisionally as Dispensary Medical Officer and Medical Referee for the district of Port Louis. He works under the Medical Officer of Health for Port Louis.

Miss I. Rogers, appointed Matron, Mental Hospital, under a three years' agreement, embarked for Mauritius on the 10th June 1925 and assumed duty on the 20th July, 1925.

Mr. L. Masson, Assistant, Bacteriological Laboratory, was granted a Government scholarship and proceeded to Europe in April with a view to taking a course of about 18 months in advanced methods of Bacteriology, Immunology and Vaccine Therapy. He has taken his course at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

Mr. Naz, Sanitary Engineer, seconded for work under the Director of the Public Works Department in connection with the erection of the chlorination plant for Grand River North West water supply, left the Colony on leave of absence during the year.

Mr. F. J. Parsons of the Survey Office discharged the duties of the office during the whole year under review.

The under mentioned Medical Officers were granted leave during the year for the periods stated against their names :—

Dr. Momplé, Assistant Director	...	.. 7th August–14th August
Dr. Masson, Sanitary Warden (Southern Districts)		{ 8th July –14th July
		{ 16th July –19th July
Dr. Rouget, O.B.E. Superintendent, Civil Hospital	...	28th Sept. –7th October
Dr. Sènèque, Resident Surgeon, Civil Hospital		{ 2nd March –21st March
		{ 21st July –30th July

A scheme for the re-organization of the Sanitary staff of the Department has been approved. It entails the reduction of the number of Inspectors and Guards and involves on completion of the reduction, a higher rate of salary for the desired class of recruits and officers:

During the year, two deaths were recorded among officers of the Department: those of a Sanitary Inspector and of a Warder (hospital). One officer (hospital warder) was dismissed.

XI.—Miscellaneous

GENERAL CONSIDERATION

In reviewing the work carried out during the year by the Medical and Health Department, it is my pleasant duty to render homage to every member of the staff for his loyal and faithful support.

The year has witnessed :—

- (i) the passing of the New health Ordinance modelled on the South African, Kenya & New Zealand acts.
- (ii) the passing of the early notification of Births Ordinance.
- (iii) the re-starting of the Child Welfare Society.
- (iv) the extension of the concrete rat-proofing of premises, specially shops, in Port Louis, Plaines Wilhems and other districts.
- (v) the final decision on the part of the Municipality to reconstruct the Central Market as already suggested.
- (vi) the approval of the Milk-Sterilizing Depot scheme.
- (vii) the appointment of a committee to enquire into the working of Victoria Hospital.
- (viii) the carrying out of experiments of fumigation by Hydrocyanic acid.
- (ix) the systematic training of the sanitary staff in the theory and practice of sanitation.

The year has been further one of great difficulty and of great financial stringency.

Unfortunate experiments were made during the year in connection with the low prices of contracts for sanitary services. Several of them had to be cancelled and fresh tenders called for, the prices obtaining subsequently being more in harmony with the market price of labour etc.

ALTERATION IN PERIOD COVERED BY ANNUAL REPORT.

The advisability of altering the period covered by the Annual Report from the calendar year to the Financial Year, viz: 1st July to 30th June, has been pointed out to Government. The question has been referred to the Secretary of State with a view to obtaining the views of the Colonial Advisory Medical and Sanitary Committee.

The reasons for the change advocated may be summed up as under :—

Diseases in Mauritius fall in summer and winter groups and reporting on them for a calendar year splits up the prevalence of the diseases and it is impossible to get a fair index unless the previous report is read jointly with the current one.

Plague in its epidemic form usually starts in August and continues during January and February.

Malaria prevails during the period extending from November to May.

Further the financial year in Mauritius is from 1st July to 30th June so that a better control on Revenue and Expenditure on the year working could be carried out instead of as at present the Annual Report is for the calendar year.

VISIT TO RODRIGUES

The Director paid an official visit to the dependency of Rodrigues in August 1925.

The principal objects of the visit were the following questions which have been duly reported upon :—

- (i) Establishment of pit latrines and of proper pail service.
- (ii) Erection of a slaughter house and sale of meat in butchers' shops.
- (iii) Port Mathurin: water supply.
- (iv) Scavenging service, Port Mathurin.

FUMIGATION BY MEANS OF ANHYDROUS HYDROCYANIC ACID.

Complaints having been of frequent occurrence in the press of a plague of insects i.e. fleas, bugs etc. annoying passengers whilst travelling in the Railway Carriages, I arranged with the General Manager and Traffic Manager of the Mauritius Government Railway to experiment in the use of Hydrocyanic Acid Gas. The General Manager placed at my disposal at Plaine Lauzun a mixed carriage of 1st and 3rd class. The cubic capacity of each of the first class compartments was 290 cubic feet whilst that of the 3rd class was 210 cubic feet.

Each compartment was separate and self contained and there was no communication between the compartments,

On the 3rd December 1925 the first trial took place. The following was the method adopted and the results obtained :—

1st METHOD

- (a) The carriage doors and windows on one side were sealed up to prevent leakage of gas.
- (b) The lamp holes on the roof of the compartments were also sealed.
- (c) The windows only of the other side of the carriage were sealed.
- (d) Wire traps containing rats were placed opposite the windows of the two compartments.
- (e) A test tube containing fleas, the top of which was covered with paper perforated by pin holes, was placed on the cushion in a third compartment and in the fourth a small bottle containing bugs, the top of which was covered in the same way.
- (f) The gas was introduced by dropping a phial of HCN on the floor of each compartment and immediately closing and sealing the door.
- (g) The carriage was left closed for 4 hours (12 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
- (h) The doors were then opened and the carriage allowed to stand over night (from 4 p.m. to 7 a.m.) when the windows could then be opened from the outside.

RESULT

- (a) About 3½ minutes after the introduction of the acid it was observed that the rats got very excited and five minutes from closing of the doors all the rats were lying on their backs dead.
- (b) The next morning when the windows were opened the test tube and bottle containing dead fleas and bugs respectively were collected, as well as the traps with the dead rats.

THE 2ND EXPERIMENT was carried out on the 23rd December 1925 as follows :—

- (a) The carriage was completely sealed up by pasting paper over the doors, windows etc. except for the lamp holes on top.
- (b) The lamp holes were provided with tight fitting wooden plugs which could be easily removed and replaced.
- (c) Wire traps containing rats were placed opposite the windows of two compartments, high up visible from the outside.
- (d) A test tube containing fleas, the top of which was covered with paper perforated with pin holes, was wrapped in two layers of blankets and placed on the seat of a compartment.
- (e) A bottle containing bugs and one containing cockroaches covered in the same way as No. (d) above, was placed inside the padding of a cushion of a second compartment.
- (f) A phial of the acid was dropped through the lamp hole of each compartment and the plug replaced immediately.

The experiment was started at 3 p.m. and about 5 minutes afterwards it was seen that the rats were dead. The carriage was left standing over night and on the doors being opened at 6 a.m. next morning the test tube and bottles containing the fleas, bugs and cockroaches respectively were collected—all were dead.

A quantity of HCN used in each phial was for 1st Class carriage : 48 c.c. and for 3rd Class : 30 c.c.

The results were satisfactory as far as the killing of rats, fleas, bugs etc. but the process seemed cumbersome.

During the fumigation the odour of HCN could be perceived within 3 feet from the carriage.

The danger attached to the experiment seemed negligible when ordinary care is taken.

The 2nd experiment was carried out on the 23rd December 1925. This time instead of throwing the phial on the floor, I utilised the lamp holes on the top of the carriage. A tight fitting wooden plug was made and after the carriage had been sealed the rats, fleas, and bugs carefully placed by opening up the cushions on the lower side. The HCN was dropped through the lamp opening on the top. On account of the late hour of starting I

decided to place a Railway policeman on duty to prevent strangers entering the carriage and the following morning Chief Inspector Purvis opened and brought the rats, fleas, bugs and cockroaches for examination—all were dead.

CONCLUSION.

HCN in Anhydrous form prepared by Kynoch, Durban is *easy to work*. There is little danger in carrying out the operation. The native staff were so pleased after watching the effect on the rats that they became enthusiastic.

That HCN in this form kills all vermin is assured, no living animal or insect escaped.

Steps are being taken to obtain and introduce at an early date a combination of HCN and SO², the latter would act as a fumigation agent as well as be a detector, and would easily be detected and thereby act as a deterrent. This process if found possible would be a great asset to Mauritius where fumigation by sulphur occurs daily in the plague season, and where rats, fleas and other insects abound.

Thanks all due to Chief Sanitary Inspector Purvis for carrying out the operation in careful manner and to the General Manager of Railways and Mr. Tanner, Traffic Manager for their assistance. Under ordinary care there is little or no danger.

MILK STERILIZING DEPOT IN PORT LOUIS

In October 1925, the Legislative Council finally adopted a minute of His Excellency the Governor embodying the scheme for the establishment of a central milk sterilizing depot in Port Louis.

Funds to the amount of Rs. 60,000 have been provided and the allotment of a portion of the old Ordinance Store at Line Barracks for the installation of the depot is approved.

Specifications of the required plant have been received from England and the necessary indents will be placed.

No milk will be allowed to be sold in Port Louis except milk from the depot which is to be equipped to handle a maximum of 4,000 gallons per day. A charge of 6 cents per gallon will be levied for sterilization, after which the sale may be effected. This step is more essential in Mauritius than probably anywhere else, where milk is produced, handled and distributed in an appalling condition and the milk usually goes sour in 12 hours.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BUREAU OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS, EASTERN ARENA

During the year under review, the League of Nations started an Epidemiological Bureau in Singapore, to serve the Eastern arena.

This colony participates in the scheme and there is weekly an exchange of information relative to epidemiological conditions and connected data in various ports and countries. The information received has proved of interest chiefly on account of its early receipt, much before the news received through the usual channels by mail steamers reach the colony.

REVENUE NOT COLLECTED.

The table hereunder shows the estimated value of certain free services rendered by the Medical and Health Department during 1925 :—

	Rs.
1. Cost of drugs supplied free to dispensaries and charitable institutions (exclusive of public hospitals).	...
2. Cost of anti-plague vaccine and sera supplied free	30,819
3. Cost of quinine issued free	5,524
4. Cost of disinfectants issued free	25,560
5. Value at tariff rates of free analyses and examinations (Bacteriological Laboratory)	10,463
6. Value at tariff rates of free radium treatment and X-ray sittings &c.	6,400
7. Value at tariff rates of hospital fees on account of pauper patients treated in general hospitals	3,600
8. Value at tariff rates of hospital fees on account of pauper patients and inmates of the Mental Hospital	241,520
	154,653
	<hr/> Rs. 478,539 <hr/>

T. B. GILCHRIST.
Director,
Medical and Health Department.

APPENDIX I

REPORT ON PORT LOUIS FOR 1925

Vital Statistics.

The population of the town and district of Port Louis is given by the Registrar General as being 53,708 and the following table shows the incidence in the population, birth rate and death rate as compared with that of the five previous years:—

Year	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1921	51,038	37.5	53.2
1922	50,973	37.3	42.6
1923	51,769	39.9	34.1
1924	53,215	42.9	34.6
1925	53,708	42.0	26.1

Classes of Instruction
To Sanitary Inspectors and Guards.

This class has again been continued throughout the year; the lecturers being the M.O.H. and the Chief Sanitary Inspector whilst the Director kindly gave a few special lectures with demonstrations prior to the Examination being held for the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

40 meetings were held and the average attendance was 32.

15 candidates sat for the Examination which took place in October.

Scavenging Service.

Approximately 12,000 tons of refuse were collected and removed from the town during the year. As in previous years most of this garbage was burnt in the open but a quantity has been used to fill in hollows in connection with anti-malaria works.

In July it was decided to reorganise the Scavenging Service by using Motor Lorries and a trailer system in place of the slow moving bullock carts. A sample trailer was made by the Government Industrial School, Bell Village and after a test of the same, it was eventually adopted.

20 of these trailers were ordered and by the end of the year 6 were in use and working satisfactorily.

To complete the scheme 3 more Ford Tipping Lorries were ordered through the local Agents.

It is hoped that this more up to date system will work on a more efficient and economical basis.

Night Soil Service.

In the Intra Urban Area of Port Louis over 1,000 services were performed daily about 700 buckets being dealt with at the Tipping Chamber, Cassis and the remainder at the Septic Tank Paul and Virginia street.

Formerly the whole of this service was performed at night but on the representations of some of the inhabitants of the Eastern and Western Suburbs a trial was made to do this work in the early morning. This proved satisfactory and was therefore continued.

It was not found possible to extend this change to the centre part of the town, which is mostly inhabited by Chinese owing to the fact that as a rule, the majority of these people do not open their premises before 6.30 to 7 a.m. and as they retire late it was found more convenient to all concerned to continue to do this part between 7 and 11 p.m.

Over 170 services on Government Establishment etc., were performed daily during the year.

Water Carriage
System

Six Pedestals Closets and one Asiatic Closet were connected to the water carriage system during the year.

The main Intercepting Sewer was completed as far as Edith Cavell Street with the exception of a small length in d'Entrecasteaux Street. This work is being steadily pushed on.

The construction of a septic tank for the Plaine Lauzun Workshops was commenced towards the end of the year and it is hoped that it will be completed early in 1926.

Extra Urban Area
Soil Sanitation.

Sixteen more pit latrines were constructed during the year making a total of 652 pits in use in the extra urban area. These latrines were regularly oiled twice a month.

In Vallée des Prêtres where pit latrines could not be constructed on account of the danger of floods, a bucket service was carried out during the year and 92 concrete latrines, of the same type as approved for the Intra Urban Area, were installed.

Water Supply.

The construction of the chlorination plant at Grand River North West was completed during the year but owing to the Reservoirs not being ready this new supply for Port Louis could not be used.

Anti-Malaria Work.

2 moustiquiers allotted to the District were employed in searching for breeding places of mosquitoes and reporting same to the Sanitary Inspectors. 28 cantonniers were employed during the year for the upkeep of 234,103 feet of existing drains and channels.

A marsh at Bain des Dames about 3,500 square yards and 4 feet deep, which was a serious mosquito breeding place, was reclaimed with scavenging refuse whilst in the Roche Bois, St. Croix area 20 large hollows on Crown Lands, which were found to hold water in the wet season, and breed *Costalis* and *Culex* were filled in with street sweepings.

Half Mile Cleared.
Zone.

The land in the Vallé Pitot was purchased except for about 180 small holdings which could not be located "in situ" and therefore no further clearing could be undertaken. The portion of land on Spear Grass Peak, Monneron Hill, and Discovery Mountain, previously cleared were upkept during the year.

Plague.

The following table shows the monthly occurrence of human plague cases in Port Louis during 1925.

Month	Bubonic		Septicaemic		Total	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
January ...	26	23	4	4	30	29
February ...	1	1	1	1	2	2
March ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
April ...	"	"	"	"	"	"
May ...	2	2	"	"	2	2
June ...	Nil	Nil	"	"	Nil	Nil
July ...	"	"	"	"	"	"
August ...	1	1	"	"	1	"
September ...	Nil	Nil	"	"	Nil	Nil
October ...	3	3	"	"	3	3
November....	1	1	"	"	1	1
December ...	6	5	3	3	9	8
Total ...	40	37	8	8	48	45

The case mortality for all cases has been about 93%. No case of the pneumonic form of plague was detected during the year.

The following table gives a comparison of the occurrence of human plague in Port Louis during the last five years.

Year	Bubonic		Septicaemic		Pneumonic		Total	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1921 ...	284	216	26	26	8	8	318	250
1922 ...	47	33	16	16	2	2	65	51
1923 ...	73	59	36	36	8	8	117	103
1924 ...	58	49	36	36	7	7	101	92
1925 ...	40	37	8	8	Nil	Nil	48	45

Lazaret Grand River
North West.

Only six cases of plague were treated in the Lazaret during the year and two patients recovered. Four of these patients were males and two females. The case mortality for these was 66%.

110 persons were kept under observation at the Lazaret for varying periods ranging from five to eight days.

Rat Campaign.

60,901 rats were destroyed during the year 1925 of which 29,492 were microscopically examined and 103 were found to be plague infected:—

an infection rate of 0.34%.

It is now to be noted that there is a noteworthy decrease in the number of plague rats found as compared with 1924, although the number caught and also the number examined was greater.

The means taken for the destruction of rodents were:—

(a). Trapping in spring and cage traps.

(b). Trapping by "glue boards"

Fecundity of Port
Louis rats

In course of the routine work of examination of rodents during the year, 142 pregnant female rats were found and the total number of young was 497 giving a fecundity index of 3.50.

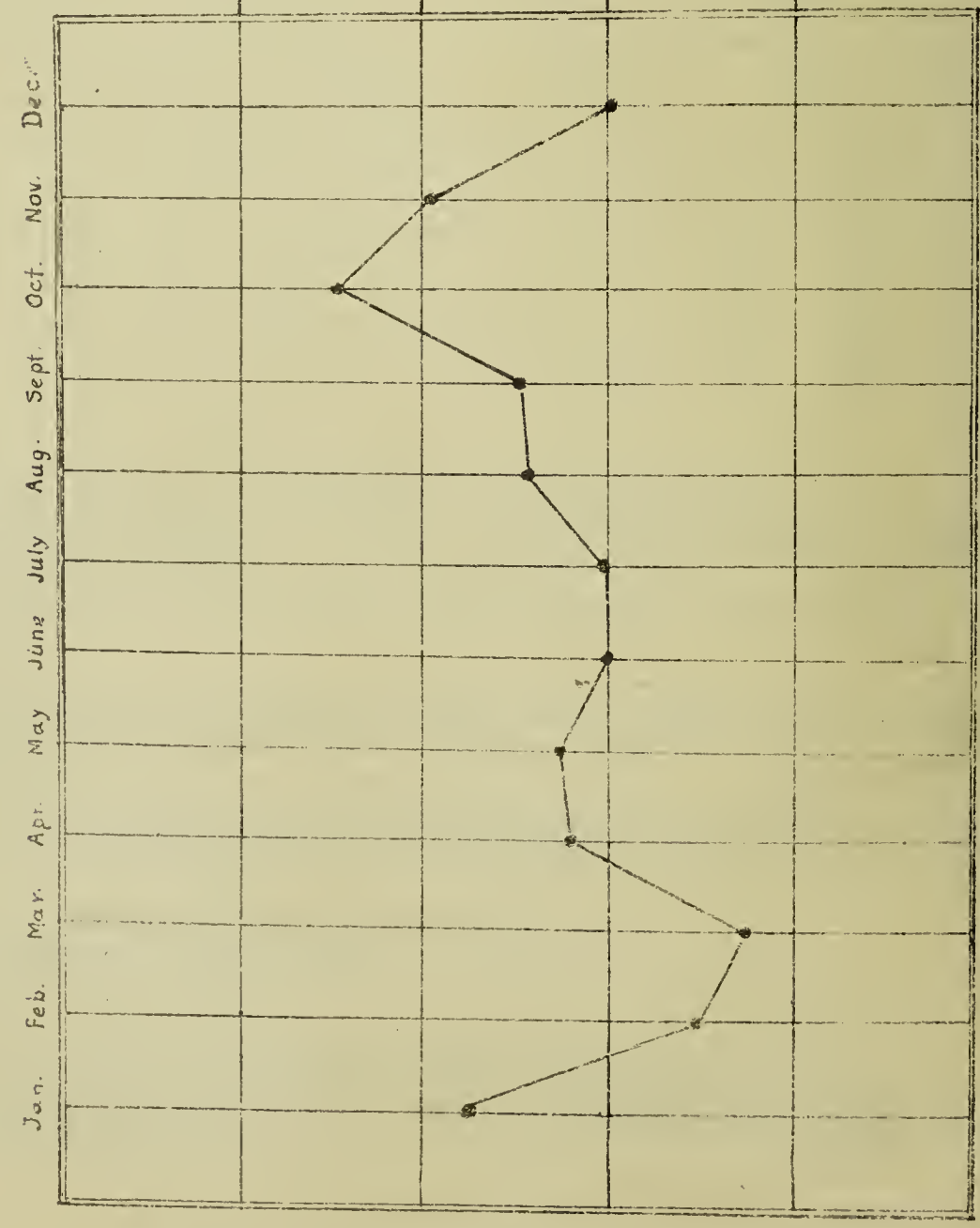


MILK CONTROL

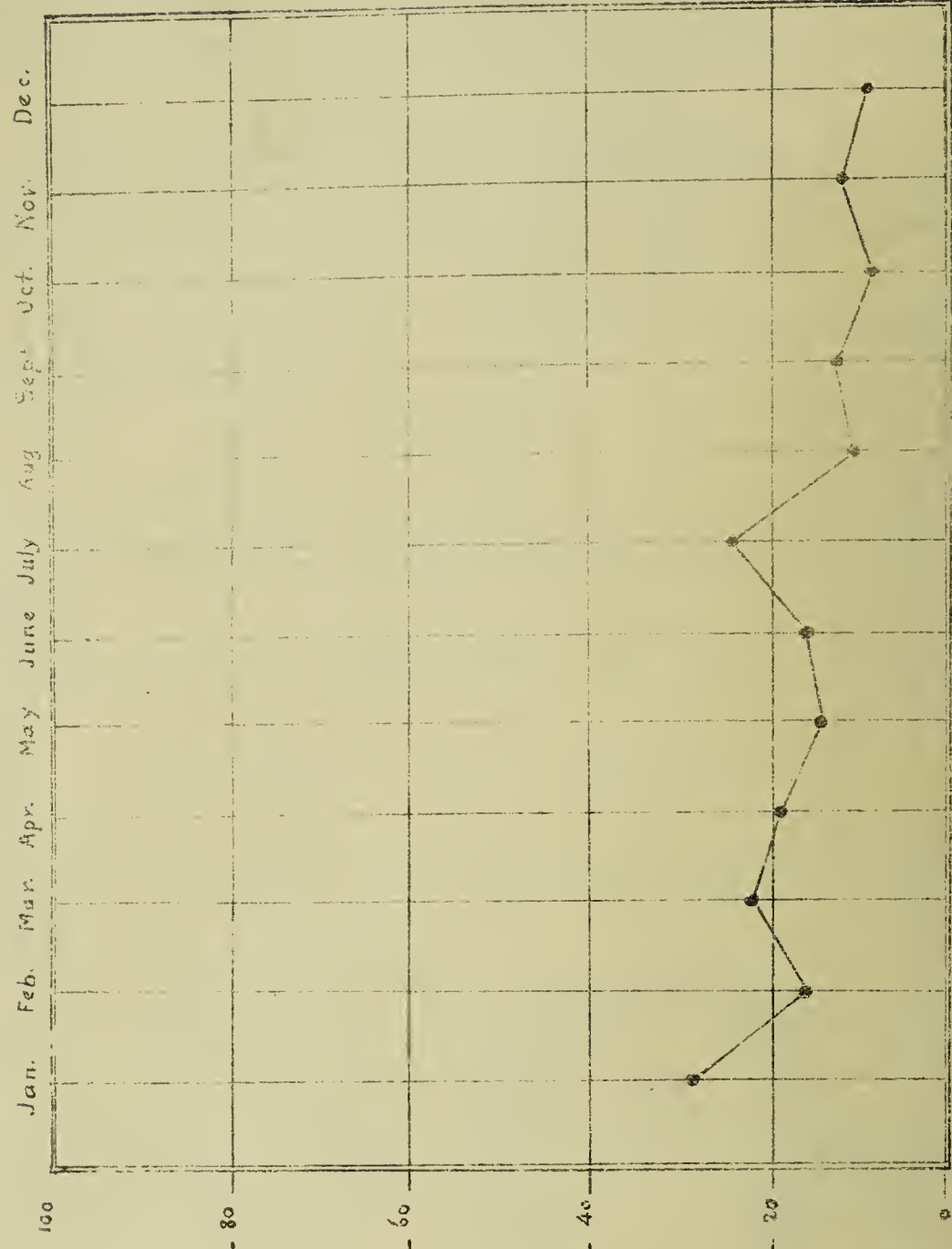
PORT LOUIS--1925

Percentage of samples of milk for each month found on analysis to be adulterated.

TOWN SAMPLES



RAILWAY SAMPLES



The following table gives a comparison of the number of rats caught etc. during 1925 with that of the preceeding year.

Year	No of rats destroyed	No of rats examined	No. of plague rats.	Infection rate	No. of young	No. of preg. rats	Fecundity Index
1924	51,308	28,001	265	0.94%	748	136	5.54
1925	60,901	29,492	103	0.34%	497	142	3.50

Plague Prophylaxis. Inoculations with anti-plague vaccine were practised during the year and are summarised as follows:—

Government Departmental Staffs	...	385
School Children and Teachers	...	4,069
General Public	...	534
Total	...	4,988

Rat-Proofing of Premises.

This important anti-plague measure was continued throughout the year and resulted in 201 dwelling houses and shops being repaired and made as rat proof as possible. The majority of premises treated in this manner since 1923 were situated in blocks where almost every year human plague cases and plague rats were found and it is gratifying to note that since these rat proofing measures were undertaken no recurrence of plague on these premises was detected.

Enteric Fever.

20 Cases of enteric fever were notified to the Sanitary Authority during 1925. 3 deaths were certified to be due to this disease.

The following table shows the number of cases notified during the last five years.

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
34	106	58	11	19

Markets and Abattoir.

The Port Louis Markets and Abattoir were inspected periodically during the year. The only structural alterations made at the Abattoir was the construction of a waiting pen for pigs.

In September His Excellency the Governor approved of a scheme for the complete reconstruction of the Central Market but up to the end of the year the work had not been started.

Dogs.

1198 stray dogs were caught by the Police, 330 of these were destroyed at once, in a humane manner, as they were found to be suffering from disease, whilst 868 were eventually unclaimed and were also destroyed.

Pigs.

69 stray pigs were shot by the Police in the extra Urban Area during 1925.

Sanitary Control of Foodstuffs.

The following table shows the foodstuffs seized by the Sanitary Authority as being unfit for human consumption:—

Foodstuffs	Quantity	Method of Disposal
Salted Meat ...	186 lbs	Destroyed
„ Fish ...	100 „	„
„ Sardines ...	15 „	„
Tinned Sardines ...	67 tins	„
Boiled Ham ...	7.25 lbs	„
Bacon ...	25 „	„

Milk Trade.

1,011 samples were procured in Port Louis district during the year 118 contraventions being undertaken against offenders and resulting in Rs. 3,730.—fines being inflicted.

The annexed graph shows the monthly percentage of samples of milk found on analysis to be adulterated.

The graph is marked “TOWN SAMPLES” and “RAILWAY SAMPLES,” the former indicating the samples of milk taken from milksellers in the town and the latter, the samples taken from consignments sent to Port Louis from country districts by rail.

22nd February, 1926.

A. A. PURVIS,
Cert. San. Assoc. (Scot.),
Chief Sanitary Inspector,
for Medical Officer of Health (Port Louis).

ANNEXURE TO APPENDIX I

YEARLY RETURN OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND ACTION TAKEN BY THE SANITARY STAFF OF M.O.H.
PORT LOUIS DURING THE YEAR, 1925.*No. of visits paid to :*

Private Premises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,729
Lodging Houses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,044
Shops	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,677
Markets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	256
Bake-Houses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	264
Slaughter Houses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58
Butchers' Shops	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	117

Special enquiries in regard to Sanitary matters etc :

Control of cremations and exhumations	-	-	-	-	19
No. of Stables, Pigsties, Cowsheds inspected	-	-	-	-	1,784

Government Establishments inspected :

Public latrines—Gratuitous latrines—Noxious factories—Camp of labourers—Docks—Water Courses—Cemeteries—Sea—Shores		5,296
No. of visits paid to wastelands in town and district of Port Louis	-	1,598
Attendance of Sanitary Officers at Law Courts	-	177
No. of Dhobies' workshops visited	-	261
No. of lighters in harbour	-	2,118
<i>Nuisances on Private Premises</i>	-	1,762
Notices and requests issued	-	1,141
No. complied with	-	864
No. not complied with	-	277
<i>Contraventions of Sanitary Enactments detected</i>	-	1,048
Cases prosecuted	-	324
Amount of fines	-	Rs. 2,180.25
No. of certificates transmitted—to the Municipality (Ordinance 23 of 1903) for abatement of Public Nuisances existing in the town of Port Louis	-	54
No. of orders issued by Sanitary Authority for improvements and removal of nuisances as contemplated in Ordinance 21 of 1900	-	502
No. complied with	-	201

Nuisances bearing on Public Health referred to Government for action :—

No. referred to Public Work Departments	-	-	-	-	232
do. Railway	-	-	-	-	26
do. Forests	-	-	-	-	Nil
do. Public Instruction	-	-	-	-	3
do. Customs	-	-	-	-	Nil
do. Postal and Telegraph	-	-	-	-	1
do. Immigration	-	-	-	-	1
do. Sanitary Engineer	-	-	-	-	323
do. Drainage Engineer	-	-	-	-	111

Application of Swine destruction Ordinance :

No. of pigs shot by Police in Extra Urban Area	-	-	69
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Milk Control.

Total No. of Contraventions	-	-	-	-	118
do. Convictions	-	-	-	-	113
do. Fines	-	-	-	-	Rs. 3,730
do. Warnings	-	-	-	-	142

C. S. I. states 2,045 samples milk were taken in 1925 resulting in 118 prosecutions and Rs. 3,730 fines.

22nd February, 1926.

A. A. PURVIS,
Cert. San. Assoc. (Scot.),
Chief Sanitary Inspector,
for Medical Officer of Health (Port Louis).

APPENDIX II

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, PLAINES WILHEMS

The population of the District of Plaines Wilhems on the 31st December, 1925 is estimated at 82,586.

The Death Rate is 19.4 o/oo and the Birth Rate is 47.2 %/oo for 1925.

There is no change in the general administration of the district. I wish to acknowledge the courtesy and assistance received from the Chairman of the Boards of Commissioners of the Townships of Curepipe, Quatre Bornes and Beau Bassin, Rose Hill, and also the Secretaries of the Boards with whom I have had close association.

In Curepipe the slum areas referred to by Dr. Balfour have been evacuated owing to the detection of plague at the latter end of 1924, but no reconstruction has yet been done.

Building regulations at present allow the grave anomaly of making it possible for a permit to be granted without taking into account the minimum space for sanitation outside the house which is insisted on in other regulations. The result of this has allowed some curious and insanitary buildings to be created, and trouble and litigation have followed in an attempt by the Sanitary Authorities to put things straight.

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE AND SOIL SANITATION.

Curepipe.—There are now 114 private water carriage installations in houses, approved of by the Department in the last three years. The disposal of effluent is by Septic Tank and percolating pit. 13 have been approved this year. Mr. Smart, the Drainage Engineer, has continued to advise on these installations.

Otherwise the township continues to have a dry bucket removal system, performed at night, undertaken by Government. The work done by Indian immigrant labour has improved considerably and it is a matter of regret that some changes may be imminent owing to their contract expiring. They are much more reliable than the Mauritian Indian whose experience under the deplorable engrais system of the past has resulted in so many insanitary habits such as decanting off liquid into streams and out of the way places. All forms of this class of labour obtain alcoholic liquor on pay day and the service is neglected largely for a night, but in spite of this the complaints for the year number 150 only, or a monthly average of 13. There are 56 men and 6 women employed. The bucket services of the town number 2012.

The disposal of the contents of the buckets is concentrated at present wholly at the Engrais Cathan, where preliminary septic tank treatment is followed by land drainage without filtration. This system was hurriedly evolved at the time when the Engrais system was finally abolished, and trenching became hopeless owing to absence of necessary road approaches and so forth. This system has been considerably overworked, but is now causing no nuisance. A great deal of reconstruction had to be faced, but was entirely carried out with local labour and material, and Mr Lambert must be commended for his energy in this connection. This system must be supplemented in the future by a proper system of disposal, the site of which has been agreed to near the Military Septic tank in the old camp which has been sold by the Army Authorities. Mr. F. E. Lionnet, the Government Veterinary Surgeon takes great care of the animals.

The extra urban area is now being soil sanitated completing the campaign in Plaines Wilhems. 1,000 pit latrines will be installed, and 30 pail services will be performed under contract.

Vacoas-Phoenix.—With the exception of 315 pail services, (where pit latrines have not been possible) performed by contract, and furnished with a Government pattern concrete box seat, and 20 private water carriage installations, all other premises in the area, numbering in all 2,300, are provided with pit latrines.

Quatre Bornes.—In the intra urban area only 13 premises remain where bucket services are necessary, excluding one big convent; the Board of Commissioners undertake the disposal. There are 811 pit latrines in the township area; and 450 in the area outside the town boundaries.

Beau Bassin & Rose Hill.—In the township area 82 services by bucket disposal are undertaken by the Board of Commissioners; and of these it is hoped that 29 will be water carriage when the proposed installations for the Railway and Police Station at Beau Bassin and Rose Hill are completed. There are 1210 pit latrines in Rose Hill, and 1159 in Beau Bassin in the township area; and 124 outside the town limits in Beau Bassin, and 217 in Rose Hill.

It is noteworthy that only in a very few instances have pit latrines failed; in those cases, in one or two instances water from an absorption pit under a water tap has necessitated a new pit being made, and in the remainder about six in number, there has been evidence of gross neglect, such articles as gunny bags, and all kinds of queer articles being thrown in carelessly. In hundreds of pits which have been inspected, the resultant sludge after many months, in some cases two years, has been very little and the pit has not filled up in the slightest degree. The Government or the Boards of Commissioners for their areas employ special oilmen to inspect and report, the householders signing their names in books to shew that premises have been attended to.

SCAVENGING.

Curepipe.—Government undertakes this in the intra urban area. Economies have been effected as much as possible and there have been no complaints either privately or from the Board during the year. Two lorries and 13 carts are employed with a staff of 30 men,

20 women, and 20 children. The Board have the power to enforce regulations which forbid rubbish to be thrown on streets after 11 a.m.

Vacoas-Phoenix and extra urban areas are undertaken by contract. They are not always satisfactory and fines have had to be inflicted.

The intra urban areas in Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill, and Beau Bassin are attended to by the Board of Commissioners. In Rose Hill and Beau Bassin are excellent services of lorries, with wheeled carts in the form of trailers. These were devised by the Board officials and have proved economical and satisfactory.

EPIDEMIC SECTION.

Plague has been practically not existent. The last epidemic continued into the early months of the year, but the latter half has been quite free both from human and rat plague. Preventive measures as regards houses and shops are being steadily carried out, and now only very few shops have still wooden floors and so called cellars.

Diphtheria has been occasionally reported throughout the year, but has not evinced a tendency to become epidemic and many cases were quite mild.

Enteric Fever has been very little in evidence, most of the cases being imported from other districts. When the new water supplies to Phoenix and the adjoining part of Quatre Bornes are completed there will have been an important danger spot set right.

There is no need for comment on the other common affections reported.

MALARIA.

Anti malaria works have been completed round Candos by the Government, and in Forest Side. The existing works are supervised by the same staff as formerly.

Searching for mosquitoes is performed regularly. *A. Costalis* has been found in private premises, through careless breeding in water barrels and defective garden arrangements in neighbourhood of the Barkly Asylum, in the estate grounds at Ebène, and in several houses in Beau Bassin; but not south of Rose Hill except once only in Vacoas. Householders are however very careless in leaving articles such as tins about; and the culicine genera are much in evidence generally. Negligence in this respect is largely evident in the more wealthy houses.

The enlarged spleens found in school children and investigation of their histories, followed by blood examinations, indicate that malaria exists in lower Beau Bassin, where the Government have not yet granted money necessary to properly drain the streets; and not south of Rose Hill; except in the western borders of La Caverne, Vacoas, and not recently, I think there, as blood examinations were negative, and the enlarged spleens were only slightly enlarged and were perhaps relics of former epidemics.

Soakage pits have been ordered wherever possible and the policy pursued with energy is undoubtedly proving beneficial.

Mr. Parsons, the Acting Sanitary Engineer has continued to execute all the works required.

Mr. Gébert at the Laboratory at Réduit has kindly examined specimens found and forwarded to him.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

31 schools, 7 in Curepipe 10 in Vacoas, and 14 in Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes were examined. The findings in 5,946 children are attached in a table. Enlarged spleens have been commented on. The very large number of children with defective teeth is remarkable. In all cases teachers were advised to communicate with parents, on the various conditions found. The benefit from the Ankylostomiasis treatment will be evident, it is expected, very soon; the latter was carried out in the latter half of the year.

ESTATES

Subjoined is a table dealing with estates. The estate hospitals and the work of the "infirmiers" (dispensers) are satisfactory. Highlands estate sent their dispenser for regular courses of instruction with the Ankylostomiasis Bureau and for laboratory work. This action must be highly commended.

Trianon has built new cottages to take the place of those which had to be burnt during the plague epidemic. There are two new camps; the one nearer the estate office and main road is the better.

Ebène was found to have a good many antimalaria nuisances recently and it is hoped that these will be rectified as *A. costalis* was found.

Réunion has been largely reorganized and a good deal remains to be done as soon as the crop season is over.

Considerable complaint was made over the question of pollution of streams. Until some filter is evolved at reasonable cost which will deal with the absorption of the sulphur gaseous compounds it is very difficult to see what can be done. The nuisance is very great, and is most offensive as fish are killed, causing additional pollution.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mr. Baretti, the Sanitary Inspector of Curepipe, has continued to give invaluable help both as Sanitary Inspector and as supervisor of disposal of refuse and night soil; in the latter he has been well assisted by Mr. Lambert.

Mr. Ferrière at Rose Hill is most hard working and reliable. He is an intelligent Sanitary Inspector who is keen on sanitary science. The same remarks apply to Mr. Tanguy while he was employed at Vacoas before his return to his former district.

I am much indebted to the staff generally who have worked zealously and loyally.

R. O. SIBLEY
Medical Officer of Health, Plaines Wilhems.

ANNEXURE I.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS IN PLAINES WILHEMS DISTRICT.

(SPLEEN EXAMINATION &C.)

School	No. of pupils examined	Enlarged spleen			Bad teeth	Persistent mouth breathers	Itch	Anæmia	Epilepsy	Ophthalmia	Congenital syphilis	Date of examination
		Small	Medium	Great								
CUREPIPE SECTION												
Eau Coulée Aided ...	267	2	...	...	26	3	1	2	...	...	...	June
Curepipe R.C. Aided Girls ...	359	4	...	...	46	8	6	5	...	...	...	July
Boys' Govt. Curepipe ...	284	8	1	...	69	8	4	3	...	...	...	July
Curepipe Road Abbé Laval Aided ...	228	3	...	...	74	12	2	..	...	...	...	July
Ste. Thérèse Boys' Aided ...	346	5	1	...	86	15	7	3	1	...	1	July
Curepipe Girls' Govt. ...	263	1	...	...	61	7	7	1	...	1	...	July
Midlands R.C. Aided ...	44	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	June
Total ...	1,791	24	2	...	362	53	27	14	1	1	1	...

VACOAS-PHOENIX SECTION

St. Paul R. C. ...	150	1	...	...	28	3	...	...	...	...	...	June
Higlands Ch. of England ...	163	...	...	...	30	8	1	1	...	...	...	June
Camp Fouquereaux Govt. ...	117	...	...	...	33	4	...	...	...	...	...	June
Visitation R. C. Aided Club Road ...	300	5	...	...	72	13	2	4	...	...	...	June
La Caverne Ch. of England...	172	3	...	...	39	8	...	3	...	...	...	July
St. Joseph R. C. Henrietta ...	64	1	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	July
Glen Park R.C. ...	151	7	...	...	40	5	7	...	...	...	...	July
Phoenix Aided Ch. of England ...	125	4	...	...	44	4	2	1	...	...	...	July
Aryan Vadic Aided ...	116	5	...	...	31	6	6	2	...	...	..	July
Mangalkhan Ch. of England	116	...	...	...	36	4	4	...	...	...	...	July
Total ...	1,474	26	...	...	362	55	22	11	...	..	...	...

BEAU BASSIN ROSE HILL SECTION

Belle Rose Govt. ...	281	5	...	...	66	4	2	6	...	...	...	June
La Louise Govt. ...	277	...	...	...	42	4	4	1	...	1	1	June
Beau Bassin Boys' ...	235	...	2	...	24	4	...	...	...	...	...	May
Beau Bassin Girls' ...	190	...	4	...	18	5	...	...	...	1	...	May
Rose Hill Govt. ...	128	1	1	...	23	5	...	12	...	...	...	June
Stanley Rd. Aided ...	212	...	...	...	52	2	...	15	...	...	...	June
Mahomedan School ...	171	...	...	...	34	8	2	...	...	...	...	June
Mrs. Chorley Aided ...	214	...	...	...	47	3	...	...	...	...	...	June
Belle Rose Convent Aided ...	63	1	...	...	18	1	...	...	...	...	...	July
Labourdonnais Govt. ...	272	2	...	...	37	6	2	...	...	...	...	July
B. Bassin St. Joseph Aided ...	170	1	...	...	38	8	..	7	...	...	...	June
Filles de Marie Aided ...	104	...	...	...	35	3	...	...	...	...	...	July
St. Enfant Jésus Aided ...	244	2	...	...	71	8	5	2	...	...	...	July
Church of England Aided Prison Road ...	120	4	1	...	35	7	...	5	...	...	...	July
Total ...	2,681	16	8	...	540	68	15	48	...	2	1	...

RECAPITULATION

Total ...	5,946	66	10	...	1,264	176	64	73	1	3	2	
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ANNEXURE II

REPORT ON ESTATES

Particulars	Estates					
	Réunion	Highlands	Bagatelle	Trianon	Ebène	Minissy
No. of inhabited huts ...	23	10 ranges	38	5 camps 242 ranges	47 ranges	17 ranges
„ „ „ rooms ..	132	147	102	196	236	328
No. of men employed ...	106	63	89	190	135	82
„ „ women and children.	180	173	112	458	366	230
„ „ pit latrines ...	42	30	8	59	32	40
Water supply ...	Mare-aux-Vacoas	Mare-aux-Vacoas	Terre Rouge River	Mare-aux-Vacoas	Mare-aux-Vacoas	Mare-aux-Vacoas
HOSPITAL						
No. of beds ...	12	12	9	20	on Minissy Estate	18
Water supply ...	Mare-aux-Vacoas	Mare-aux-Vacoas	Terre Rouge River	Mare-aux-Vacoas		Mare-aux-Vacoas
No. of latrines ...	2 (pit)	2 (box)	2 (pit)	4 (pit)		2 (pit)

APPENDIX III

REPORT OF THE SANITARY WARDEN FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS

TO THE HON. DIRECTOR, MEDICAL & HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the annual report on the work done in the Northern Districts during the year 1925.

SOIL SANITATION

Our efforts have been, again, particularly concentrated on this campaign and it is hoped that within the next three months every human habitation in the Northern area will have been provided with adequate sanitary accommodation.

The number of latrines constructed since January 1924 when the campaign was started—is :—

	Pit	Pail	Total
Pamplemousses ...	4,365	216	4,581
Rivière du Rempart ...	2,169	95	2,264
Flacq ...	4,701	1,250	5,951
Total ...	11,235	1,561	12,796

The pit latrines are oiled every twenty days.

MALARIA

The 424,551 ft. of existing anti-malarial works have been satisfactorily upkeep.

Marshy grounds at Mon Plaisir where complete drainage would have proved very expensive have been planted with Eucalyptus trees.

A marsh at Poudre d'Or has been drained in its greater part and the rest is being filled up.

I have noted that anti-malarial works had been started at Grand Baie and Cap Malheureux.

Judging from the spleen rate obtained from an examination of the school children, the most malarious sections are :—

- Pamplemousses—Arsenal and Pamplemousses Village.
- Rivière du Rempart—Poudre d'Or and Cap Malheureux.
- Flacq—Post de Flacq, Quatre Cocos, Rivière Sèche and Grand River South East.

WATER SUPPLY

Although no major work has been undertaken during the year under review, notable improvements have been made to the water supply in Flacq and Rivière du Rempart.

Flacq.—Additional fountains have been placed at Medine.

The Trou d'Eau Douce supply has been materially improved.

Extensions have been laid to :—St. Julien, Camp Caboche, Camp Ythier and Camp des Pêcheurs.

Rivière du Rempart.--The pumping station at Goodlands has been completed.

New pipes have been laid from :—

- (i) La Cave to Grand Gaube
- (ii) Sottise to Grand Baie.

GENERAL HEALTH

An improvement is to be noted as evidenced by the following comparative tables re :

- (i) Estimated population
(ii) Deaths and Births.

(i) *Estimated population on January 1st*

	1924	1925
Pamplemousses ...	37,038	37,373
Rivière du Rempart ...	32,072	32,507
Flacq ...	53,389	53,953

(ii) *Deaths and Births.*

	1924			1925		
	Deaths	Births	Still-Births	Deaths	Births	Still-Births
Pamplemousses ...	1,128	1,384	157	991	1,489	142
R. du Rempart ...	859	1,321	161	759	1,419	111
Flacq ...	1,499	2,048	245	1,342	2,270	228
	<u>3,486</u>	<u>4,753</u>	<u>563</u>	<u>3,092</u>	<u>5,178</u>	<u>481</u>

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

On the whole conditions have been satisfactory. The table below gives the number of and nature of diseases recorded.

	Cerebro spinal meningitis	Typhoid	Diphtheria	Plague	Puerperal Fever & Septicæmia	Erysipelas
Pamplemousses ...	1	6	1	15	1	1
R. du Rempart ...	...	2	1	3	...	1
Flacq ...	1	11	1	1	7	4
Total ...	<u>2</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>

The only outbreak of Plague occurred at Grande Rosalie where ten cases—six of which proved fatal—were registered in January and February.

There is little doubt that infection was carried from Port Louis through the grain as the first evidence of the disease was an epizootic on rats in the grain store.

With regard to the other cases, they occurred much later in the year, were purely sporadic and the probable source of infection could not be definitely traced out.

SCHOOLS

The 40 schools in the area were visited regularly during the year.

The general conditions have remained unaltered. Most of the buildings are not suitable and the children are overcrowded in small rooms, unsufficiently ventilated and intensely hot in summer.

A spleen census was made twice during the year, in May and November.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are only three slaughter houses for the whole area.

Pamplemousses.—One public abattoir where a total of 527 animals were slaughtered during the year.

The revenue derived amounts to Rs. 1,289.50.

Flacq.—Two private abattoirs :—One at Central Flacq and one at St. Julien.

A total of 767 animals were slaughtered during the year.

CEMETERIES

A new public cemetery was opened at Brisée Verdière in November thus bringing the number of public cemeteries, in the Northern area, to eight.

In addition there are twenty two private cemeteries under the charge of the various parishes and estates.

The revenue derived from the Public Cemeteries amounted to Rs. 5,719.50.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK

Scavenging

A scavenging service has been established in the following villages :—

Tombeau Bay
Triolet
Plaines des Papayes
Notre Dame
Montagne Longue

14,626 notices and orders were served under the various ordinances and regulations in force. Contraventions amounted to Rs. 6,613.40 during the year.

Two Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. Bouquet and Mr. Dubois qualified at the examination held by the Royal Sanitary Institute.

A. C. D'ARIFAT,

APPENDIX IV

REPORT FOR 1925 ON THE DISTRICTS OF MOKA, GRAND PORT AND SAVANNE.

I have the honour to forward the annual report on the work done in the Southern Districts during 1925.

2. The population of the three districts under the charge of the Sanitary Warden South is given in the following table which also supplies the birth and death rates and the number of still-births as obtained from the Registrar General.

District	Area (sq. milés)	Population on 31.12.25	Birth rate ‰	Death rate ‰	No. of still-births
Moka ...	89	32,168	46.6	21.8	133
Savanne ...	93½	34,443	39.4	24.1	148
Grand Port ...	101	50,899	40.7	26.0	212

The improvement noticed last year in the death figures has maintained itself, the total recorded during the last five years being :—

Year	Moka	Savanne	Grand Port
1921 ...	1,218	1,396	2,170
1922 ..	955	962	2,043
1923 ...	780	850	1,721
1924 ...	749	833	1,553
1925 ...	686	819	1,310

SOIL SANITATION.

3. Soil Sanitation is now complete in the three districts. The following is a statement of the number of pit and pail latrines in use in each district on 31st December, 1925.

District	Pit latrines	Pail latrines	Total
Moka ...	2,359	1,820	4,179
Savanne ...	3,104	895	3,999
Grand { Rose Belle Section...	3,099	343	3,442
Port { Mahebourg do. ...	2,109	261	2,370
Total ...	10,671	3,319	13,990

The number of new pit and pail latrines provided during the year is as follows :—

District	Pit latrines	Pail latrines	Total
Moka ...	31	22	53
Savanne ...	463	109	572
Grand { Rose Belle Section...	292	2	294
Port { Mahebourg do. ...	53	...	53
Total ...	839	133	972

214 latrines in service during the previous year are no longer available either through the landowners pulling down their houses or the pits becoming full.

It is deemed advisable at this stage to post up to date the statement made last year bearing on the influence of the soil sanitation campaign on the prevalence on intestinal complaints.

It now reads :—

District	Deaths declared at the Civil Status in respect of ;											
	Diarrhoea and enteritis				Dysentery				Typhoid			
	1922	1923	1924	1925	1922	1923	1924	1925	1922	1923	1924	1925
Moka ...	46	51	38	40	41	26	25	23	7	5	1	4
Savanne ..	31	25	45	79	43	34	31	26	3	7	2	3
Grand Port ...	110	74	63	87	77	31	49	45	4	4	3	3
Total ...	187	150	146	206	161	91	105	94	14	16	6	10

The improvement noticed in the previous annual report has maintained itself in respect of dysentery and typhoid but not as regards diarrhoea and enteritis. Of the factors at work the water supply conditions which have not changed as will be seen below and the grave state of affairs resulting from the acceptance of low tenders through financial stringency for the performance of the night soil services should be mentioned. The contractors through disregard on the bearing on public health have not only badly performed and neglected the services allowing pails to overflow but in certain cases made a rebate on the fee they are entitled

to charge on condition that the inmates do not make use of their latrines. These have consequently reverted to the adjoining fields which have again become highly polluted. The repeated fines imposed have proved no deterrent and Government has at last (within a few days of writing this report, March, 1926) cancelled the contracts and called for new tenders.

The writer has not the least doubt that in the case of some of the localities provided with a pail service the worm infection in respect of *Ankylostomiasis* has risen to a figure if not equal at least very near that found by Drs. Hampton and Yeager of the Rockefeller Institute.

SCAVENGING

4. Government continues attending to the scavenging of Mahébourg, Rose Belle, New Grove and Mare d'Albert. The service has been satisfactory. A heavy burthen was thrown on the staff by the cyclone of December 12th. No additional means were applied for to remove and deal with close on 3,500 cartloads (over 1,000 tons) of leaves, branches and detritus of Mahébourg alone. By December 31st satisfactory progress could be reported and early in January the village had resumed its normal appearance. Less heavy work was thrown on the Rose Belle staff who coped with the cleaning still more rapidly.

Only on the case of Rivière des Anguilles did the Contractor fail to carry out his obligations. The cheap contract entered into by him has resulted in the village falling in a very disreputable state of dirt and filth which reached one of utter abandonment by the end of December.

The Contractors for the other villages have on the whole discharged their obligations satisfactorily.

WATER SUPPLY

5. Most of the piping from Rose Belle to Mahebourg had by the end of the year been replaced. Nevertheless the supply of the lower villages including Mahébourg continues during the dry months of the year more or less intermittent.

A grave defect has recently come to notice in the construction of the Grand Port reservoirs where the distribution pipes are laid flush with the bottom so that there is no sedimentation except during the periods during which the valve supplying the lower localities is turned off. It is evident that when the distribution valve is opened there is a rush of the sediment through the pipe which either goes towards its blockage or reaches the consumer. That the condition has a bearing on the incidence of diarrhoea in Mahébourg cannot be established; but, as it may, it is hoped modifications will soon be carried out in the supply arrangements.

No progress can be reported in respect of the St. Martin and Baie du Cap and Bois Chéri supplies. These localities continue to consume rain and surface well waters. In the case of the two former the water runs short and the inhabitants have to remain content with some more or less putrid surface collection.

None of the Grand Port and Savanne supplies is provided with filter beds. After heavy shower the water running from the taps is muddy.

To these defective water supplies may in a great measure be attributed the incidence of diarrhoea.

Moka district is better off in this respect but there are still some places where the supply is not beyond reproach. That of L'Espérance came specially to notice; bacteriological analysis by the Government Analyst proved it to be bad. As a result modifications were suggested. The work was taken in hand but unfortunately stopped before much progress had been effected. The water continues if anything worse, and although there is as yet no official report on the subject, it is understood that a recent analysis has shewn the strains of bacteria and their number so numerous as to class it among the non-potable and dangerous. The condition was to be expected seeing that the surface water from adjoining canefields collect in the hollow from which the supply is drawn.

ANTIMALARIAL WORKS.

6. No major work has been carried out this year apart from preliminary surveys of Riviere Patate in Savanne and Mare d'Albert and de la Sablonnière marshes in Grand Port.

The canalised portion of Ruisseau Sec within the limits of Rose Belle village which had considerably suffered from floods during previous years continues in the same unattended state. The whole work will shortly have to be done over again.

The upkeep of the 278,313 feet of trained rivers and canals in Moka and of the 178,437 feet in Grand Port and Savanne has been satisfactory but the same remarks as made last year in respect of their influence in improving the malarial conditions of localities like St. Hubert, R. Créoles, Bel Air, Bois des Amourettes, Mahébourg and Souillac where other conditions favouring the breeding of *Anophelines* persist applies. The full benefit can neither be derived nor expected.

Under the conditions which obtain no further fall in the incidence of malaria can be hoped for—at least in the districts allotted to the Sanitary Warden South. The heavy rainfall of December will no doubt be followed by a recrudescence of the disease. As a matter of fact at the time of writing this report (February-March) severe cases of malaria are reported from Savanne and Grand Port.

Reference was made last year to the unhealthy condition of Pailles due to the bad upkeep and defective condition of Pailles Canal. This canal which starts near Mountain Ory runs through Sorrège estate and Pailles village; its upkeep is entrusted to a Syndic. The latter after having been prosecuted several times for non compliance with requests

asking for repairs and cleaning finally wrote requesting Government to carry out the work and charge the expenditure to the riverains.—Apart from visits paid by officers of the Public Works Department in company of the writer and the Sanitary Inspector, no further action has been taken to the knowledge either of the latter and Pailles continues one of the most unhealthy localities of the island in spite of the lavish expenditure incurred for the canalisation and upkeep of Pailles and Pitot streams in the past.

SPLEEN RATES, SPLEEN AVERAGES AND INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

7. As usual the schools of the three districts were each inspected at least once during each of the two half years for the purpose of carrying out the spleen census.

Below is a table giving the spleen rates and spleen averages obtained in respect of each district.

District	No. of children on roll		No. examined		No. with spleen		Spleen rate		Spleen average	
	1st $\frac{1}{2}$ year	2nd $\frac{1}{2}$ year	1st $\frac{1}{2}$ year	2nd $\frac{1}{2}$ year	1st $\frac{1}{2}$ year	2nd $\frac{1}{2}$ year	1st $\frac{1}{2}$ year	2nd $\frac{1}{2}$ year	1st $\frac{1}{2}$ year	2nd $\frac{1}{2}$ year
Moka ...	1,845	1,841	1,277	1,213	48	53	3.75	4.36	1.11	1.14
Savanne ...	2,168	2,245	1,421	1,535	199	170	14.01	11.08	1.46	1.33
Grand Port ...	3,794	3,799	2,674	2,443	510	403	19.07	16.49	1.66	1.54

The schools presenting the highest rates and averages are borne on the following tabular statement:—

School	First half year					Second half year				
	No. on roll	No. examined	No. with spleen	Spleen-rate	Spleen average	No. on roll	No. examined	No. with spleen	Spleen-rate	Spleen average
GRAND PORT										
Plaine Magnien Government	228	139	44	31.65	2.32	223	153	54	35.29	2.05
" Aided	113	77	22	29.87	1.96	116	57	9	15.43	1.45
Escalier Government ...	324	239	52	21.75	1.68	347	188	42	22.44	1.62
Riche-en-Eau Government	121	84	41	48.8	2.94	119	93	39	41.93	2.48
Cent Gaulettes (St. Hubert Aided)	126	77	42	54.54	3.19	143	97	38	49.18	2.32
Rivière Créoles Government	175	86	40	43.51	3.18	172	81	38	46.91	2.96
Bois des Amourettes Aided	113	67	27	40.29	2.47	108	42	16	38.09	2.69
Grand Sable ...	60	41	25	39.51	2.58	62	36	20	55.55	2.94
The 4 Mahébourg School	1,109	716	155	21.61	1.71	1,106	700	109	15.57	1.15
SAVANNE										
Surinam ...	160	120	40	33.33	2.46	195	125	23	18.4	1.62
Baie du Cap ...	113	67	34	50.74	2.73	79	64	26	40.95	2.13
MOKA										
Pailles ...	79	50	23	46.00	2.68	70	52	28	53.84	3.25

In the early part of the year the schools were inspected with a view to reporting on their hygienic and sanitary conditions. For this purpose plans were made and measurements taken. The conditions were demonstrated to be practically beyond description. Most of the buildings are too small, for the number of children they accommodate; their ventilation and lighting are defective while not a few are in a bad state of repair, some being ruinous and dangerous. To these objectionable conditions must be added the ill influence of floors which are but very seldom washed or swept, of seats badly conceived and either too high or too low for the children, of questionable water supplies and of the absence of playground. There is but one sweeping statement to characterise the conditions which obtain in the great majority of the schools of the Southern Section: School hygiene is not existent and has entirely been lost sight of by the Legislator.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ESTATE HOSPITALS AND INSPECTION OF CAMPS.

8. There are 4 estate hospitals in Moka, 16 in Grand Port and 13 in Savanne. They were each inspected twice and found in fair condition of upkeep and equipment.

The 61 estate camps were also regularly inspected. Their sanitary condition has on the whole been found satisfactory and any shortcoming brought to the notice of the managers readily remedied. The cyclone of December 12th has done some damage to the estate camps. At Bel Etang, Beau Vallon and Riche en Eau especially many ranges of huts were blown down, but accommodation for the inmates was readily provided by the Estate Authorities.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

9. The number of cases of each disease falling under the Contagious Disease Ordinance notified to the Sanitary Authorities is given in the following table :—

District	Diphtheria		Typhoid		Erysipelas		Measles		Puerperal Fever		Plague	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Moka ...	9	...	16	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Savanne ...	1	...	17	3	2	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
Grand Port												
Rose Belle Section	...	...	3	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...
Mahebourg „	3	...	8	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...

Dysentery.—In Section 3 of this report it is seen that the number of deaths due to this disease is 94 against 105 the previous year and that Grand Port with 45 shows a decrease of 4.

However as in previous years Gros Bois estate in Grand Port has suffered badly from the disease and Deux Bras less so. Indeed at the former estate Hospital 101 patients were treated for dysentery 2 of whom died, at Deux Bras the figures are respectively 11 and 1.

The prevalence of the disease on these two estates is due to the fact that they both have an open canal water supply. The conditions are worse at Gros Bois because the canal crosses the Indian hamlet of Mare Tabac where in spite of the watch exercised by Gros Bois estate pollution by bathing and washing of clothes takes place. 5 cases of pollution of Gros Bois canal were taken before Court and a total fine of Rs. 200 inflicted.

Plague.—Two cases occurred at Nouvelle Découverte. The first was ascertained post mortem on a patient who had been treated for Malaria and whose death had been medically certificated as due to it. The second was that of a child who on his way back from school stopped at the latter's to enquire into the health of the patient and play with his child. When he fell sick his father removed him to Long Mountain hospital where the disease was diagnosed.

Several deaths it was found afterwards had occurred in a near locality of an adjoining district and had passed unnoticed. The short space of time which elapsed between each can leave but little doubt that plague was the cause of them all.

A third case at Providence, was infected in Flacq.

During the year the more or less dilapidated wooden floors of 150 shops have been replaced by cement with a view to render the buildings as rat proof as other obtaining conditions will allow.

MARKETS

10. Only one of the villages of the 3 districts is provided with a market : Mahébourg. It is utilised practically twice a week for some 3 or 4 hours at a time. The building and the enclosure both call for repairs.

As stated in the previous annual report control of the fish trade and of the sale of articles of food like bread is difficult. These may be hawked about in baskets or exposed for sale under the verandah of Chinese shops. It is true that the law provides that bread and other articles consumed direct should be kept in dust-proof cases but the natives who exclusively carry out the trade take notice of it only when a Sanitary Officer is in sight. Besides, the fines imposed when cases are taken before the competent courts are so low that they prove no deterrent.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

11. There are two Government slaughter houses : Mahébourg and Souillac and 4 private owned ones.

The number of animals slaughtered in each has been as below .—

Slaughter House			No. of animals slaughtered							Fees collected
			Oxen	Cows	Calves	Heifers	Swine	Goats	Sheep	
Mahébourg Govt.	251	158	177	8	269	192	8	Rs. 2,040.50 1,075.— Fees accrue to owner of Slaughter House
Souillac Govt.	...	...	168	143	149	...	...	...	...
Riv : des Anguilles private	...	...	...	...	...	...	73	...	...
St. Pierre private	...	...	303	290	46	42	...	105	11
Rose Belle (Mrs. G. Elysée) private	...	...	255	143	143	...	...	...	...
Rose Belle (Ah-Kong) private	5	Rs. 3,115.50
Total	...	...	977	734	515	50	347	297	19

The slaughtering is under the control of Sanitary Officers, any doubtful case being referred to the Government Veterinary Surgeon.

The value of the control is evidenced by the following table ;

				No. of seizures					
				Oxen		Sheep and Goats		Swine	
				Plucks	Whole carcase	Plucks	Whole carcase	Plucks	Whole carcase
Mahébourg Government	...	...	...	14	4	2	...	7	1
Souillac Government	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...
Rivière des Anguilles private	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Pierre (private)	...	...	...	19	9	...	...	...	...
Rose Belle (Mrs. Georges Elysée) private	...	...	...	8	3	..	...	...	...
Rose Belle (Ah-Kong) private	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	...	...	...	47	16	2	...	7	1

GENERAL SANITARY WORK

12. A summary of the work done during the year is contained in the following statement :

Notices served under :

Regulations 162 of 1885 (night soil)	...	...	...	34
Ord. 32 of 1894-95 (nuisances)	...	...	...	884
do. do. (malaria nuisances)	...	...	...	140
Regulations 297 of 1924 (Soil Sanitation)	...	...	...	1,329
do. 198 of 1907 (cleaning of yards)	...	...	...	2,472

Orders issued under :

Ordinance 21 of 1900 (repairs to houses)	...	...	...	322
Total number of prosecutions ;	...	...	...	376

Apart from the above the following number of contraventions have been established under :

Regulations 162 of 1885 (night soil)	...	...	...	129
53 of 1912 (milk)	...	...	...	85
320 of 1920 (sale of cakes etc.)	...	...	...	75
50 of 1914 (storing of food in sleeping room)	...	...	...	3
35 of 1863 (washing of clothes in rivers, canals etc.)	...	...	...	7
297 of 1924 (Soil Sanitation)	...	...	...	378
207 of 1919 (accumulation of manure)	...	...	...	6
258 of 1914 (sale of food, cakes)	...	...	...	10
216 of 1923 (trenching of faecal matter)	...	...	...	2
30 of 1914 (camps)	...	...	...	7
63 of 1875 (hawking of unwholesome food)	...	...	...	1
9 of 1889 (pollution of rivers)	...	...	...	4
8 of 1898 (obstructing officer in discharge of duties)	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	708

The total of fines imposed by the various courts in respect of sanitary laws is Rs. 4,447.20.

The total number of visits paid by the staff to private premises in addition to the regular inspections made of the various Government institutions, slaughter houses, sugar estate camps etc. amounts to Rs. 29,702.

COURSE OF LECTURES

13. Lectures were given at Rose Belle every Wednesday to the members of the staff, six of whom presented themselves at the last examination held by the Royal Sanitary Institute for the award of certificates of Sanitary Inspector. I am happy to record the success of four of them—two Inspectors and two Guards. The four sections of the Southern districts are now provided each with a qualified Inspector while two of the Guards working under them are also holders of the certificate.

ADMINISTRATION

14. A considerable amount of work has been done during the year. It is a great pleasure to have to record the loyal and ungrudged assistance the staff has given under all circumstances and it is but fair that sincere thanks be tendered to them all here.

I need hardly add that I have always received from the Medical Director valuable advice on all occasions I have applied for it, advice which has always been highly appreciated.

12th March, 1926.

A. G. MASSON,
Sanitary Warden South.

APPENDIX V.

REPORT ON THE MENTAL HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR 1925.

The total number of certified insane persons in the Colony on 31.12.25 was 700, compared with 686 on the corresponding date in 1924.

The following table shows the distribution of the 700 certified insane persons :—

	European Population			General Population			Indian Population			Chinese Population			Total
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	
At Mental Hospital ...	1	...	1	116	107	223	126	64	190	14	1	15	429
At Barkly Mental Branch Wards...	...	...	...	35	67	102	26	26	52	1	...	1	155
Out on probation leave ...	...	...	...	27	18	45	41	24	65	6	...	6	116
Total ...	1	...	1	178	192	370	193	114	307	21	1	22	700

(i) The ratio of total insane to total population was 17.77 per 10,000. It is interesting to compare this rate with the average total insane rate for European countries which is 40 per 10,000, that for England and Wales as given by the Board of control for the year 1923 being 34.40 per 10,000 of population.

(ii) The insane rate for General Population was 33.46 per 10,000, that for Indians and Chinese being 11.18 and 25.34 respectively. The insane rate for the General Population is therefore about three times that of the Indian. As pointed out in my previous report, it would appear that the greater prevalence of insanity among the General Population is accounted for by the fact that the Creole is more highly strung than the Indian and is thus more prone to succumb to psychic traumata. Again, unemployment is more rife among Creoles, who, as a class, show a natural distaste to Agricultural work, hence worry and privations are more frequent etiological factors in the causation of insanity among them. Alcoholism too, is more prevalent among Creoles; thus out of 19 patients that were admitted during the year, all of whom were alcoholics, no fewer than 15 were Creoles.

(iii) The male insane rate for all classes was 19.35 per 10,000 and the female rate 16.09.

HOSPITAL POPULATION.

2. The number of inmates remaining in hospital on 31st of December 1924 and 1925 is shown hereunder :—

			1924			1925		
			M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
At Mental Hospital	...	...	244	200	444	259	173	432
At Barkly Mental Branch Wards	...	...	50	60	110	62	93	155
Total	...	...	294	260	554	321	266	587

On the 432 inmates of the Mental Hospital on 31.12.25, 3 were under interim detention awaiting examination by the Commissioners in Lunacy, so that the correct number of certified insane in hospital on that date was 429—Included in this number were 14 male and 9 female paying patients.

3. The following table shows the daily average number of patients during the year.—

			M.	F.	T.
Mental Hospital	...	...	259.66	182.99	442.65
Barkly Mental Branch Wards	...	...	51.3	63.6	114.9

4. Criminal Mental Patients.

			M.	F.	T.
Number of Criminal Mental patients on 31.12.24	...	...	12	...	12
„ admitted during 1925	...	...	5	...	5
„ discharged „	...	...	3	...	3
„ died „	...	...	...	...	...
Remaining on 31.12.25	...	...	14	...	14

Of the 5 Criminal mental patients admitted :—

- One came from the Central Prisons, Port Louis, charged with larceny and suffering from acute melancholia ;
- Another, also committed for larceny, came from the New Central Prisons, Beau Bassin, suffering from delusional insanity.
- a third, an untried prisoner, was admitted from La Laura after committing three murders.—This was a case of acute melancholia with pronounced delusions of grandeur and persecution.
- a fourth, an epileptic boy aged 12, a moral imbecile, was admitted from the Industrial School, Beau Bassin.
- a fifth, came from the New Central Prisons, Beau Bassin, suffering from acute mania with marked violence. He had been imprisoned for larceny and assault on Police.

5. The following table shows the duration in hospital of the 429 certified insane patients ;

Duration in hospital to 31.12.25.

			M		F		T
			—		—		—
1 year or less	...	..	51	...	28	...	79
Between 1 and 2 years...	...	...	27	...	21	...	48
„ 2 „ 3 „ ...	...	...	24	...	10	...	34
„ 3 „ 4 „ ...	...	...	16	...	12	...	28
„ 4 „ 5 „ ...	...	...	11	...	13	...	24
„ 5 „ 6 „ ..	...	...	12	..	9	...	21
„ 6 „ 7 „ ..	...	...	4	...	8	...	12
„ 7 „ 8 „ ...	...	...	6	...	9	...	15
„ 8 „ 9 „ ...	...	...	4	...	6	...	10
„ 9 „ 10 „ ...	...	...	6	...	6	...	12
„ 10 „ 15 „ ...	...	...	25	...	24	...	49
„ 15 „ 20 „ ...	...	...	24	...	9	...	33
„ 20 „ 25 „ ...	...	...	26	...	9	...	35
„ 25 „ 30 „ ...	...	...	7	...	4	...	11
Over 30 years	...	...	14	...	4	...	18
Total ...			257		172		429

It will be seen from this table that more than half of the inmates have been in hospital 5 years or more, the prognosis in the vast majority of these cases being bad.

ADMISSIONS.

6. The admissions into the Mental Hospital during 1925 numbered 220, as compared with 240 during 1924.

			M		F		T
			—		—		—
1st admissions	...	...	61	...	39	...	100
2nd „	...	...	6	...	7	...	13
3rd „	...	...	2	...	0	...	2
Readmissions from Probation	...	...	18	...	10	...	28
„ „ Barkly Mental Branch Wards	...	...	30	...	29	...	59
„ „ Civil Hospital...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Admitted under interim detention order but found sane by Commissioners	...	...	10	...	6	...	16
Total ...			128		92		220

As usual the largest number of admissions were from the districts of Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems and there was a preponderance of unmarried persons and of those with no regular occupation.

7. Table showing the propable causes of insanity in 115 patients admitted for the 1st, 2nd or 3rd time during the year 1925.

Causes			M		F		T
			—		—		—
Fevers (Malaria, influenza etc.)	...	...	19	...	12	...	31
Unknown causes	...	...	9	...	8	...	17
Hereditary influences	...	...	11	...	10	...	21
Alcohol	...	...	19	...	0	...	19
Epilepsy	...	...	10	...	2	...	12
Previous attacks of insanity	...	...	7	...	6	...	13
Domestic trouble and grief	...	...	10	...	10	...	20
Mental worry, anxiety and overwork	...	...	10	...	5	...	15
Old age	...	...	2	...	2	...	4
Congenital defects	...	...	1	...	0	...	1
Syphilis	...	...	10	...	1	...	11
Business and pecuniary difficulties	...	...	0	...	0	...	0
Puerperal and parturition	...	...	0	...	6	...	6
Prolonged lactation	...	...	0	...	1	...	1
Pregnancy	...	...	0	...	3	...	3
Menopause	...	...	0	...	3	...	3
Puberty	...	...	1	...	0	...	1
Fright and nervous shock	...	...	0	...	1	...	1
Opium	...	...	1	...	0	...	1
Gunjah	...	...	3	...	0	...	3
Dysentery	...	...	1	...	0	...	1
Arteriosclerosis	...	...	2	...	0	...	2
Privation	...	...	1	...	6	...	7

These figures represent the entire number of instances in which the general causes (either alone or in combination with others) were stated to have produced the mental disorder. The excess of the aggregate of such causes over the number of patients considered 115—is owing to the combination of causes. The 3 cases in which gunjah was a prominent factor in the causation of the psychosis were smokers of the drug previous to the prohibition of its sale by Law.

DISCHARGES

8. The total number of discharges during the year was 212 against 214 in 1924.

Table showing the classification of discharges :—

	M	F	T
Found sane after examination by Commissioners	11	6	17
Found cured and finally discharged	1	2	3
Found relieved and released on probation	44	42	86
Transferred to Barkly Mental Branch Wards (Chronics)	40	61	101
Transferred to Civil Hospital	1	1	2
Discharged on leave under G. N. 239/24	2	0	2
Return to Leper Asylum	1	0	1
	100	112	212

4 harmless demented were allowed to leave the Barkly Mental Branch wards on probation leave, under the care of relatives or friends.

During the year there were 89 recoveries (86 relieved and 3 cured) The percentage of recoveries on admissions (115 admissions plus 28 readmissions from probation) was 62.23, compared with 61.68 for 1924.

75 patients (51 males, 24 females) on probation leave were found cured and finally discharged.

DEATHS

9. In 1925 there were 20 deaths (12 males & 8 females) against 37 in 1924. Of the 20 deaths, 4 were patients from the Barkly Mental Branch Wards.

12 of these deaths took place within a period of 2 months from Admission and were mainly due to the poor state of health of the patients admitted.

The death rate calculated on the daily average number of inmates at the Mental Hospital and the Mental Branch Wards was 3.58% compared with 6.66% for 1924; 4.28% for 1923; 5.84% for 1922; 4.68% for 1921; 6.29% for 1920; 11.9% for 1919.

The death rate here compares very favourably with the average death rate for all Mental Hospitals in England and Wales which was 8.89% in 1922, 7.7% in 1923.

10. The following table gives the number and causes of death during 1924 and 1925.

Causes	1924	1925
Tuberculosis	6	0
Debility and Asthenia	2	3
Senility	8	2
Epilepsy and its complications	4	0
Acute delirious mania	2	0
Cellulitis	1	0
Pneumonia	3	4
Heart disease	2	0
Dysentery and enteritis	5	5
Bright's disease	1	0
Meningitis	1	0
Cerebral tumour	1	0
Asphyxia and Syncope	1	0
Acute Pulmonary Oedema	0	1
Abscess of lung	0	1
Duodenal Ulcer	0	1
Malaria	0	2
Cirrhosis of liver	0	1
Total	37	20

From the above table it will be seen that most of the deaths were due to Pneumonia and Amoebic dysentery.

In 1925, there were no deaths from Tuberculosis, whereas in 1923, 7 patients died from this disease and 6 in 1924.

This improvement is most probably due to the better feeding of the patients.—All patients are now regularly weighed once a month and their diets regulated in accordance with their weights,

PREVALENCE OF SICKNESS

11. The following table gives the number of cases treated in both infirmaries and the daily average of sick for the years 1924 and 1925.

	M	1924 F	T	M	1925 F	T
No. of cases treated in Infirmaries ..	191	152	343	210	138	348
Daily average of sick in Infirmaries ...	11.58	11.17	22.75	5.91	3.95	9.87
Sick rate on daily average in Hospital ...	...	...	4.09%	...	...	2.23%

12. Table of monthly admissions into the two infirmaries, total stay, and average stay per patient for the years 1924 and 1925.

1924				1925			
Months	M	F	T	Months	M	F	T
January ...	16	13	29	January ...	25	17	42
February ...	14	20	34	February ...	20	7	27
March ...	20	12	32	March ...	17	13	30
April ...	15	13	28	April ...	15	9	24
May ...	20	12	32	May ...	20	17	37
June ...	10	9	19	June ...	9	12	21
July ...	23	23	46	July ...	16	8	24
August ...	7	5	12	August ...	17	17	34
September ...	15	12	27	September ...	20	12	32
October ...	17	11	28	October ...	12	5	17
November ...	21	9	30	November ...	14	16	30
December ...	13	13	26	December ...	25	5	30
Total ...	191	152	343	Total ...	210	138	348
Total Stay ...	2,767	2,874	5,641	Total Stay ...	2,289	1,566	3,855
Average stay per patient	18.90	18.90	16.44	Average stay per patient	10.90	11.34	11.07

The above table shows that although there were practically the same number of admissions into the infirmaries during 1924 and 1925, yet the total average stay per patient was very much less during the latter year. The total average stay per patient in 1923 and 1924 was 22.05 and 16.44 days respectively compared with 11.07 in 1925.

13. Monthly admissions into both infirmaries for the commoner diseases .—

Diseases	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Epilepsy ...	11	5	5	3	7	...	3	4	8	4	...	6	56
Influenza ...	4	...	...	...	3	5	5	8	...	...	...	2	27
Malaria ...	3	3	5	...	3	1	1	4	1	1	2	3	27
Abscess ...	1	2	3	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	24
Debility and Asthenia ...	1	1	2	...	4	...	...	...	1	1	4	...	14
Bronchitis ...	1	1	...	1	2	2	...	2	2	1	1	...	13
Amœbic dysentery ...	...	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	...	1	1	1	13
Boils ...	1	...	2	1	2	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	10
Asthma ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	2	1	8
Acute gastritis ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	4	...	8
Pneumonia, lobar ...	1	...	...	...	2	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	7
Phthisis ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

As usual Epilepsy and Influenza head the list of diseases causing the greatest number of admissions into the infirmaries, influenza, however, was much less rife in 1925, accounting for 27 admissions against 50 in 1924.

In 1925 there were 27 admissions due to malaria compared with 25 in 1924.

ESCAPES.

14. During the year there were no escapes, nor were there any cases of Suicide or Homicide.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

15. Staff.—On 1.3.25 Dr. E. Portal, L.R.C.P. & S. was provisionally appointed Assistant Medical Superintendent.

On 20.7.25 Miss Isabel Rogers, an English trained nurse, assumed duty as Matron.

Mr. Evariste Casse, the Steward and Accountant, after 35 years service at the hospital retired on pension on 7.8.25 and was replaced by Mr. G. E. F. Mason, Provisions Storekeeper, Head Office.

Mr. J. L. Dorval, Storekeeper and Dispenser to the Hospital was transferred to Port Louis to replace Mr. Mason and was succeeded by Mr. D. Davis, Storekeeper and Dispenser, Moka Hospital.

A new post of Head Attendent was created and filled on 1.11.25 by Mr. E. Létimier, Head Warder, Civil Hospital.

Nurse Haskett was promoted Assistant Matron and 2 female nurses and a Seamstress were also appointed.

5 Sanitary Guards were appointed as Warders.

BUILDINGS & EQUIPMENT

16. In December 1925, a sum of Rs. 198,400 was voted by Government for the improvement of the accommodation and equipment of the Hospital. Work has already started on a new kitchen and the erection of an operating theatre, admission hospitals, private quarters and administrative offices is in hand.

Special baths and water-heating plant have been ordered from England and are expected shortly.

8 portable recording clocks have been received and will still further help to check the night supervision of our patients.

The Gatekeeper's house was enlarged by the addition of two rooms.

TREATMENT

17. It is still to be regretted that more patients are not sent to the Mental Hospital early enough to give them the best chance of recovery. Much valuable time is wasted by relatives who allow a case to go from bad to worse in the hope that something will happen, through "tisanes" or occult influences, to alter the patient's brain. Most of the acute cases are treated in bed and preferably in the open air. Hydrotherapeutic measures of a sort have been used, but special baths from England are expected shortly.

Several cases of neuroses were much benefited by faradism combined with suggestion and persuasion.

Psychotherapy was also successfully practised on a few cases of psychoneuroses, but on the whole the scope for this form of treatment is limited, even in patients with good insight through the majority of our inmates being insufficiently mentally equipped to carry out the details of the procedure and take an intelligent interest in it. Mental cases complicated by, or due to, syphilis derived much benefit from intramuscular injections of Bismuth preparations. Cases of general paralysis were conspicuous by their absence.

Luminal either alone, or in combination with bromide, was used with gratifying results in the treatment of Epilepsy.

OCCUPATIONAL TREATMENT

18. Workshops are not yet available for occupational and curative treatment. During the year a daily average of 23.2 patients, mostly Indians attended to the vegetable gardens. All the laundry of the hospital was done by female patients—ward work, kitchen work, darning, upkeep of the hospital grounds gave employment daily to an average of 108 patients. The estimated value of the work done by patients during 1925 was Rs. 17,159.91 an increase of Rs. 1,675.75 over the 1924 estimate.

RECREATION

19. A few patients were allowed out on probation leave under G. N. 239/24. Parole has not, so far been tried; it is intended to do so shortly. In 1925 the Police Band played once a month at the hospital.

Three treats were given consisting of cakes, fruit, lemonade and other delicacies. The treats were in each case followed by a cinematograph performance. Gramophone music is played every Sunday. Sixty four new records were bought during the year and these, with the old stock, provided much variety of musical airs. New sets of cards, draughts, dominoes, chess, loto games were also purchased.

French and English illustrated papers and other periodicals were provided by people interested in the welfare of our patients. The piano in the female department was freely used by patients and their friends.

VISITS

20. On 22.5.25 His Excellency the Governor accompanied by the Colonial Secretary, the Medical Director, the Director of Public Works and other officials visited the Hospital and Barkly Mental Branch Wards.

The Central Board of Commissioners in Lunacy paid 12 visits and on each occasion visited the hospital.

Two boards of Survey were held.

During the year Mass was said on the first Friday of every month and an average of 40 patients attended on each occasion. Were the Chapel larger a greater number of our inmates would willingly attend.

Father La Chapelle attends most assiduously to the religious wants of our Roman Catholic patients. Apart from his visits for Mass, Confession and Extreme Unction, he also attends on the third Wednesday of every month for a general absolution.

The Anglican minister paid several visits during the year and interviewed the dozen patients that belong to the Church of England.

CONCLUSION

21. To conclude, I wish to thank the Honourable Medical Director and the Members of the Central Board for their valuable assistance in helping me to improve the welfare of our patients.

Beau Bassin,
26th February, 1926.

J. D. DYSON,
M.B.B.S. Lond., D.P.M.,
Medical Superintendent, Mental Hospital.

APPENDIX VI.

REPORT OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY FOR THE YEAR 1925.

The total number of samples and articles examined at the Bacteriological Laboratory during the Year 1925 was 5,167 as compared with 4,012 in 1924. The figures for the last five years are as follows :

1921	...	1,776
1922	...	1,850
1923	...	3,014
1924	...	4,012
1925	...	5,167

They bear eloquent testimony to the growing importance and usefulness of the Institution and amply justify the present and any future expenditure of public funds in promoting its activities. The work done at the Laboratory during that period will be discussed for purposes of convenience and to facilitate comparison with previous reports under the following heads :

I—CLINICAL

Samples coming under this head, exclusive of vaccines, numbered 3577. Of these 303 were cultured on artificial media and when necessary tested by animal inoculation.

The materials examined comprised specimens of blood, sputum, pus, throat and nasal swabs, cerebro-spinal ascitic and pleural fluids, stomach washing, human milk, fæces, urine, pathological discharges and newgrowths.

(a) *Blood*—1642 samples were received.

(a) *Malaria*—197 films were examined for parasites with successful finds in 18 cases as under :

Tertian	...	...	6
Subtertian	...	...	3
Quartan	...	...	1
Type undetermined	...	...	8

(b) *Filariasis*.—The embryos of filaria Bancrofti were found on 3 occasions.

(c) *Typhoid and the Paratyphoids*—These febrile diseases accounted for 236 specimens.

Of these 177 were tested for agglutinins by Widal's method with positive results as to typhoid in 64 cases.

No positive paratyphoid reactions were obtained thus confirming the view previously expressed from this Laboratory that paratyphoid fevers are very seldom met with in this Colony. 58 samples were cultured on bile-salt both from 8 of which bac. typhosus was isolated; from two others bac. paracoli was recovered in pure culture.

(d) *Syphilis*.—960 specimens were tested for the Bordet-Wassermann reaction against 465 in 1924. Results positive with 295 and doubtful with 63.

(e) *Tuberculosis*.—Fifteen samples were examined for this disease by Besredka's method of complement fixation. Positive findings in 7 cases.

(f) *Blood counts*.—105 differential leucocyte counts were made as well as 11 red corpuscle and two white cell counts.

(g) *Urea-glucose-haemoglobin Values*.—These were estimated respectively in 93, 2 and 6 cases. The Dubosc colorimeter recently received is proving extremely useful in dealing with severe cases of diabetes where the degree of glycæmia previous to and after insulin treatment can be accurately and rapidly determined by means of this instrument.

(h) *Bacteriological examination*—70 samples of blood were haemocultured with success in 21 cases. 12 of these have already been referred to under para. (c) above; the remaining 10 gave Staphylococci from 9, Streptococci from one and bac. pyo cyaneus from one sample.

(2) *SPUTUM*—Specimens examined for pulmonary tuberculosis : 235. Koch's bacillus was found in 58.

(3) *THROAT AND NASAL SWABS*—were received on 268 occasions. The Laboratory findings were required either for purposes of the diagnosis or in the search for carriers among cured patients or contacts.

It is to be noted that the practice of keeping patients under observation until shown by the Laboratory to be no longer infective is now more generally adopted both by Sanitary Authorities and Private Practitioners. Loeffler's diphtheria bacillus was found on 58 swabs by direct examination usually associated with cocci but Vincent's fusiform bacillus was found to be the casual organism in 11 cases.

Culture on serum media showed bacillus diphtheria in 25 cases where the preliminary microscopical examination had either been negative or doubtful.

(4) Pus—Number of samples 103. Often in the form of smears of Urethral or Vaginal discharges; Gonococci were present in 23 of these. In 29 cases the pus collected with aseptic precautions were cultured yielding:

Staphylococci in	...	15	cases
Streptococci	...	9	„
Bac. Coli communis in	...	1	case
„ „ Communior „	...	1	„
„ Pyo cyaneus „	...	1	„

(5) CÉREBRO SPINAL FLUID—51 samples. 17 were submitted to a cytological examination only viz., white cell count (11) and differential leucocyte count (6). 12 were chemically examined: 3 for globulin, 7 for albumen, one for sugar and one for chlorides. 14 came in for a Wassermann reaction with 4 positives and 9 were cultured yielding.

Streptococci	in	...	1	case
Meningococci	„	...	1	„
Pfeiffer's influ. bac.	„	...	2	cases

Special interest attaches to the last two cases were an organism similar in every respect and bio-chemical reaction to Pfeiffer's bacillus was isolated by culture from the Cerebro-spinal fluid in which it was easily detected by the preliminary microscopical examination. These occurrences at a time when there was no special epidemic prevalence of influenza is worthy of note. The patients were children and both cases terminated fatally.

(6) ASCITIC FLUID—6 specimens. Two were sent in for a white cell count and three for a differential leucocyte count. The sixth was cultured with negative results.

(7) SYNOVIA FLUID—3 samples were cultured. Two proved sterile but the third gave Staphylococci.

(8) PLEURAL FLUID—Tappings from two cases were sown on various media without results.

(9) FAECES—Total number of specimens 803, amongst which 182 showed Amoebae of different kinds; the species being determined as Ent. Histolytica in 54, Nana in one and Coli in 116 cases. The following intestinal parasites were also found in the course of these examination:

Trichuris trichiura in	...	536	specimens
Ascaris	...	253	„
Lambliæ	...	103	„
Ankylostoma	...	74	„
Blastocystis	...	71	„
Strongyloides	...	40	„
Trichomonas	...	35	„
Oxyuris	...	1	specimen

Six specimens were cultured. Two of them gave bac. Coli Communis one bac. Coli Communior and a fourth bac. Lactis Aerogenos as the predominating organisms.

(10) URINE.—411 analyses were made. Most of these consisted in the usual routine clinical procedures, Chemical and microscopical, but in 85 cases the centrifuged sediments were cultured and the following organisms isolated:

Bac. Coli Communis from	...	25	specimens
„ „ Communior „	...	14	„
Staphylococci	„	11	„
Streptococci	„	3	„
Bac. pyocyaneus	„	1	„
Gonococci	„	1	„
Bac. Paracoli	„	3	„
Microscopical examination of the sediments also showed:			
Eggs of Schistosomum Haematobium	...	31	cases
Hyaline casts	...	46	„
Granular casts	...	22	„
Waxy casts	...	1	case
Gonococci	...	1	„
Micro-filarise	...	1	„
Trichomonas	...	1	„

(11) NEOPLASMS.—27 specimens were cut after inclusion in paraffin. They consisted of.

Squamous Epithelioma	...	5
Adenoma	...	4
Sarcoma	...	2
Simple angioma	...	2
Myoma	...	2
Scirrhus Cancer	...	2
Tubercle	...	2
Lymphangioma	...	1
Bilharzial polypus	...	1
Haemorrhoidal tissue	...	1
Branchioma	...	1
Uterine curettings (Chronic metritis)		1
Chronic mammitis	...	1
Salivary gland (normal)	...	1
Lymph coagula	...	1

One of the tubercle specimens was removed from a growth involving the testis and epididymis. The Bilharzial tumour was peculiar in its location at the external urinary meatus in a female.

(12) STOMACH WASHINGS.—Analysed in 3 cases, twice quantitatively for free hydrochloric acid and once for butyric acid.

(13) VAGINAL SCRAPINGS.—Showed bilharzial infestation in a hospital patient.

(14) UTERINE DISCHARGES.—Two samples received. One of which gave Streptococci on culture; the other was sterile.

(15) SPLEEN AND GLAND SMEARS.—14 smears from the spleen or lymphating glands were examined in suspected cases of plague—4 showed plague bacilli and one nothing but streptococci.

(16) HUMAN MILK.—4 samples came for analysis that were stated not to agree with the infants—Nothing abnormal was discovered.

(17) MOUTH SCRAPINGS.—Examined for fungi in one case with negative results.

(18) ENTOMOZOA.—Segments of a tape worm were referred for identification they proved to be parts of a Taenia Saginata.

II.—VACCINE

1. *Prophylactic Vaccines*.—Antityphoid and T.A.B. Vaccines were prepared as usual, and supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners on application. The demand for the former was markedly reduced as compared with previous years and that for T.A.B. practically nil.

As new departures arising out of the Assistant Superintendent's Studies at the Pasteur Institute of Paris on a Govt. Scholarship, Calmette's B.C.G. Vaccine was prepared from stock cultures brought back by Mr. Maya himself, for the protection of children against Tuberculosis. 62 infants were thus vaccinated in the course of the Year with no untoward effects; and filtered pyogenic vaccines for local immunisation by Besredka's method. The results in the case of the latter preparation have been encouraging especially in the treatment of purperal sepsis.

2. *Therapeutic Vaccines*.—The following auto-vaccines were made at the request of the Medical Profession:

From Blood with bac. typhosus	-	-	-	7
„ „ Staphylococci	-	-	-	1
„ „ bac. Paracoli	-	-	-	1
„ Urine with bac. coli communis	-	-	-	21
„ „ bac. coli communior	-	-	-	11
„ „ Staphylococci	-	-	-	4
„ „ bac. paracoli	-	-	-	3
„ „ Streptococci	-	-	-	2
„ „ bac. Pyocyaneus	-	-	-	1
„ Pus with Staphylococci	-	-	-	10
„ „ bac. coli communior	-	-	-	2
„ „ Streptococci	-	-	-	1
„ „ bac. pyocyaneus	-	-	-	1
„ Synovial Fluid with Staphylococci	-	-	-	1

III.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

A total of 1,274 samples of foods, drinks and drugs were chemically analysed during the year under review showing an increase of 276 over the number dealt with last year.

The substances received for analysis were as follows :

	No. of samples	No. of cases	From whom received.
Milk ...	1,178	1,178	Sanitary Authorities, Law Courts and Govt. Institutions
Opium ...	50	6	Police and Rev. Depts.
Gandia ...	12	2	do.
Butter ...	10	7	Sanitary Authorities
River pollution ...	9	3	do.
Wine ...	8	4	Rev. Dept.
Cider ...	4	3	do.
Beer ...	1	1	do.
Sardines ...	6	1	Sanitary Authorities
Saltfish ...	1	1	do.
Flour ...	1	1	do.
Liquor contraventions	2	2	Rev. Dept.
Bread ...	1	1	Military Authorities
Motor spirit ...	1	1	Police Dept.

The only point of special interest in these examinations was found in the samples of what was described as "Cider." The beverage in question was Cider only by name as it made no pretence of having been prepared from apples or pears. It was characterised by a comparatively high alcoholic figure (over 7%) and a high percentage of sugar. In short it rather answered the description of a sweet fruit wine.

Fifteen samples of water were also examined as to their fitness for drinking purposes 12 of these were from the Mare-Aux-Vacoas for the monthly bacteriological control of that source of supply.

A chemical analysis of the same water was also made at the request of the Hon. Director P. Works. The three other samples came from Black River, Bassin Loulou and L'espérance Quartier Militaire.

Rat spleen smears were examined on four occasions for the Medical Officer of Health Plaines Wilhems with negative results in all cases.

IV—MEDICO-LEGAL

The articles of evidence organs, materials, &c., referred for examination by the Judicial Authorities at the request of the Police and other Public Departments amounted to 240 against 125 in 1924.

They were connected with the following offences :

Rape ...	117 articles in 23 cases
Poisoning ...	29 " 5 "
Murder ...	33 " 8 "
Manslaughter ...	19 " 2 "
Sodomy ...	18 " 4 "
Wounds & blows ...	9 " 5 "
Bestiality ...	4 " 1 case
Larceny with violence	1 article in 1 "
Illegal practice of medicine	10 articles in 1 "

These examinations call for no special remark but attention may be drawn to the preponderance of rape cases, in a large proportion of which examination of the clothes & materials received revealed nothing having any bearing on the offence.

V—RESEARCH

Work in this section was continued more or less on the lines indicated in the previous year's report but little progress was made on the activities of the staff (reduced by Mr. L. Masson's absence on study leave) were mainly engaged in the teaching of students and training of Medical Officers in practical microscopy as recommended by Dr. Balfour.

Much time was, however, devoted to the study of Calmette's B.C.G. vaccine against infantile tuberculosis.

VI—ADMINISTRATION

The fees collected at the Bact. Laboratory in 1925, irrespective of sums paid at the Central Office or the Treasury amount to Rs. 8052. Mr. Masson, Laboratory Assistant, left in May on study leave with a grant from the Govt. Scholarship Fund.

Three more students were taken on during the year thus bringing the total number of students in training to six with a view to an annual rotation of three students a year.

20th March, 1926.

L. G. BARBEAU,
Superintendent Bact. Laboratory.

APPENDIX VII.

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTION IN PORT LOUIS.
1925.

The following schools were inspected during the 1st half year :

Name	No. of pupils examined
1. Ste. Croix Aided School	57
2. St. Joseph „	280
3. Church of England Aided School	240
4. Soonee Soortee „	214
5. Cœur de Jésus „	425
6. Loreto Convent „	203
7. La Paix „	220
8. Jean Lebrun „	79
9. St. Vincent de Paul „	244
10. Père Laval „	87
11. Vallée des Prêtres Govt. School	126
12. Roche Bois „	60
13. Pamplémousses Road „	189
14. Central Boys' „	223
15. Canal Street „	143
Total	2,790

The number of pupils examined amounted to 2,790 as against 1,947 for the last half year ended December 1924.

The principal diseases noticed were :—

	1st half year 1925		2nd half year 1924	
	No. of cases	Percentage	Percentage	
Pediculosis...	196	7	7.2	
Scabies ...	13	.4	.6	
Skin diseases ...	44	1.5	2.3	
Defective eyesight ...	38	1.3	1.7	
Ear troubles ...	90	3.2	2.7	
Tonsils and adenoids ...	97	3.4	2.7	
Bad teeth ...	629	22.5	20.8	
Malaria ...	194	6.9	6.6	
Ankylostomiasis ...	362	12.9	17.4	
Schistosomiasis ...	42	1.5	2.-	
Other Worm Infections...	746	26.7	24.7	

The above figures as regards Pediculosis, scabies, defective eyesight, ear troubles, skin diseases, tonsils and adenoids, bad teeth, malaria, schistosomiasis and other worm infections are practically the same as those for the second half year 1924. The percentages are very small considering the class of the population to which these children belong.

The percentage for ankylostomiasis shows a slight increase (4.5%) over the figure for the last half year. It must be remembered, as I have already mentioned, that under this heading are included all cases of anæmia whether caused by malaria, ankylostomiasis, other worm infections, general debility, defective development or poverty.

The figure for schistosomiasis (1.5%) is practically the same as that for the second half year 1924.

194 pupils were found with enlarged spleen, 127 were classed as small, 56 as medium and 11 as great. The spleen rate is 6.9% as against 7% for 1924. The percentage is practically the same.

The figure for the average spleen is 1.2 as against 1.3 for 1924.

The following schools were inspected during the second half-year :

Name	No. of pupils examined
1. Immaculée Conception School...	345
2. Central Girls' Govt. „	169
3. Western Suburb Govt. „	307
4. Cassis Road Govt. „	223
5. Champ de Lort Govt. „	290
6. Grand River N.W. Govt. „	58
7. Jean Baptiste de la Salle „	455
8. St. Joseph (Brabant Street) „	184
9. Signal Mountain „	202
10. Bon Secours Convent „	220
	2,453

The number of pupils examined was 2,453 as against 2,790 for the first half-year ended 30th of June, 1925.

The principal diseases noticed were :

				2nd half-year 1925		1st half-year 1925
				No. of cases	Percentage	Percentage
				—	—	—
Pediculosis ...	...	...	...	161	6.5	7.
Scabies ...	...	...	...	4	0.1	.4
Skin diseases ...	...	...	...	54	2.2	1.5
Defective eyesight ...	...	...	...	74	3.0	1.3
Ear troubles ...	...	...	...	97	3.5	3.2
Tonsils and adenoids ...	...	...	...	112	4.5	3.4
Bad teeth ...	...	...	...	485	19.7	22.5
Malaria ...	...	...	...	94	3.4	6.9
Ankylostomiasis ...	...	...	...	220	8.9	12.9
Schistosomiasis ...	...	...	...	14	0.5	1.5
Other worm infections ...	...	...	...	543	22.1	26.7

The above figures show that the percentage of infection is practically the same as that for the first half year as regards the following diseases : Pediculosis, skin diseases, ear troubles, tonsils and adenoids, ankylostomiasis and other worm infection. The percentage is very small considering the number of pupils examined and the class of the population to which they belong.

Only 4 cases of scabies were registered. This good result is no doubt due to the strict measures which were taken by the Head teachers to keep away from the schools all children affected with that disease until they were re-examined and found cured.

220 children of different ages were found pale and anæmic looking. They were as usual all classed under the general heading of ankylostomiasis. This pale and anæmic appearance may however be due to causes other than ankylostomiasis, such as malaria, worm infection, general debility, defective development or poverty.

The figure for schistosomiasis 0.6% shows a marked improvement over the figure (1.5%) for the first half year.

94 pupils as against 194 for the first half year were found with enlarged spleen. 62 were classed as small, 24 as medium and 8 as great. The spleen rate is 4.3% as against 6.9 for the first half year. The figure for the average spleen is 1.1 as against 1.2 for the same period. The improvement in that respect is very encouraging and deserves a special mention.

I am glad to say that the Head teachers of all the schools in Port Louis, take a keen interest to see that the children placed under their care and especially those who suffer from enlargement of the spleen, take their quinine in a regular and up to date manner.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

Water Supply.—No improvement in that respect has been noticed. The water for drinking purposes is obtained from the Grand River North West and Bathurst Canal and does not go through any process of purification before it is given to the pupils.

Buildings.—The buildings are, as I have already reported, former private residences, altered and modified to a certain extent so as to be used as schools. The great majority of them do not answer the purpose for which they are intended.

Accommodation.—Inadequate in practically all the schools.

Ventilation.—This would be perfect if the doors and windows were not sometimes closed for some part of the day on account of the sun or wind. This state of matter has, on my recommendation, been greatly remedied since my last inspection.

Lighting.—Defective in some of the rooms due to the manner in which the buildings were built originally.

Latrine system.—8 latrines situated in the central part of the town are provided with the drainage system. The buildings are kept in a good state of repair. The great inconvenience is that water, which is so necessary for that kind of disposal, is stopped for about two hours during the course of the day and faecal matter during that time accumulates in the receptacle, creating a nuisance which is only removed after the water has been restored.

12 latrines in the urban part of Port Louis are provided with the tub or pail system. The service is performed regularly and the buildings are, as a rule, clean and well kept.

5 latrines in the extra urban part of the town are provided with the pit system. I am glad to say that, up to now, they all give satisfaction.

F. L. KEISLER,
Medical Inspector of Schools, Port Louis.

APPENDIX VIII

STAFF

ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.

Director: T. B. Gilchrist, M.D.; M.B.; C.M.; D.P.H.; F.R.F.P. & S.

Assistant Director: F. J. R. Momplé, M.B.; C.M.; D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, Port Louis: J. Balfour Kirk, M.B.; Ch.B.; D.P.H.; D.T.M. & H.
(On leave).

Medical Officer of Health, Plaines Wilhems; Duties performed by Dr. Momplé, (Assistant Director from December, 1925).

Superintendent, Bacteriological Laboratory and Government Analyst: L. G. Barbeau, M.B.; C.M.; D.P.H.

Sanitary Warden (Northern Districts): A. C. d'Arifat, L.R.C.P.; M.R.C.S.

Sanitary Warden (Southern Districts): A. G. Masson, M.B.; Ch.B.

Port Health Officer and Medical Inspector of Port Louis Schools: F. L. Keisler, L.R.C.P. & S.; L.F.P. & S.; D.P.H.

Superintendent, Mental Hospital: J. D. Dyson, M.B.; B.S.; D.P.M.; M.R.C.S.; L.R.C.P.

Assistant Superintendent, Mental Hospital: R. Laventure, M.D. (Appointed 27.11.24, resigned 28.2.25) (Dr. E. Portal, L.R.C.P. & S.; re-employed provisionally from 1.3.25).

Superintendent, Civil Hospital: F. A. Rouget, O.B.E.; M.D.

Resident Surgeon, Civil Hospital: G. Sènèque, M.D.

Superintendent, Victoria Hospital: E. L. de Chazal, C.B.E.; M.D.

Resident Medical Officer, Victoria Hospital: W. R. Dupré, L.R.C.P. & S. (On leave) (Dr. I. Humbert acting).

Police and Prison Surgeon, Port Louis and District (Govt.) Medical Officer and Sanitary Authority for Black River: Ph. de Chaumont, M.B.; B.S.; M.R.C.S.; L.R.C.P.

Government Medical Officer, Plaines Wilhems: E. F. Bour, L.R.C.P.; M.R.C.S.; L.S.A.

Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases Medical Officer: D. D. Anderson, L.S.A.; M.R.C.S.; L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer i/c Hookworm Branch: Dr. C. Camal Boudou, M.B.B.S.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS

(GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICERS HAVING CHARGE OF A DISTRICT HOSPITAL AND OF ALL THE DISPENSARIES IN THEIR DISTRICT).

Pamplemousses: J. H. André, L.R.C.P.; M.R.C.S.

Rivière du Rempart: S. Piarroux, L.R.C.P. and S.; L.F.P. and S.

Flacq: H. G. Lamberty, L.R.C.P. and S. L.F.P. and S.

Grand Port: A. Y. Cantin, M.R.C.S.; L.R.C.P.; D.T.M.

Savanne: B. A. Sinnatambou, L.R.C.P. and S.; L.F.P. and S.

Moka: G. A. Léclézio, M.R.C.S.; L.R.C.P.; D.P.H.

INDIAN MEDICAL OFFICER

Officer in charge of Port Louis Dispensaries: D. I. Abraham, L.M.F. (Appointment terminated on 9.7.1925).

SPECIAL

Dispensary Medical Officer and Medical Referee, Port Louis: E. Rama, M.D. (provisional).

APPENDIX IX.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

In the course of 1925, Miss Alice Chorley, holder of the diploma of Licentiate of the Medical Faculty (L.M.F.), Lahore Medical College, was authorised to practise Medicine and Surgery in the Colony under Ordinance No. 22 of 1869.

DENTISTS

During 1925, the undermentioned dentists produced their diplomas at the office and were authorised to practise Dental Surgery in the Colony under Ordinance No. 21 of 1906 :—

Mr. M. J. V. R. de Palmas, L.D.S. ; R.C.S. (England) 1925.

„ G. Edouard Rohan, L.D.S. ; Academy of Paris, 1922.

„ F. Nicole, L.D.S. ; Faculty of Medicine (Paris) 1925.

Mrs. F. Nicole, L.D.S. ; Faculty of Medicine (Paris) 1925.

PHARMACISTS

Mr. J. H. Benjamin L'Etang, holder of a diploma of Chemist and Druggist, under the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, was authorised to act as a Pharmacist in the Colony, under Ordinance No. 19 of 1912.

At the examination held in December, 1925, in accordance with the Pharmacy Ordinance, No. 19 of 1912 and Regulations No. 232 of 1913, the following candidates qualified as Pharmacists :

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Auguste AH KONG, | 2. Raymond CONSTANTIN, | 3. Marcel SIMONET. |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|

ASSISTANT PHARMACISTS.

At the examination held in December, 1925, in accordance with the Pharmacy Ordinance, No. 19 of 1912 and Regulations No. 232 of 1913, the undermentioned candidates qualified as Assistant Pharmacists :

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| (1) Edmond Fabien Babet | (2) Noëlo Perombelon |
|-------------------------|----------------------|

STUDENTS IN PHARMACY

At the examinations held in 1925 for the registration of Students in Pharmacy, under the provisions of Regulations No. 205 of 1913, as amended by Regulation No. 85 of 1914, the following candidates were successful :—

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Louis René Decotter | 6. Jean Emmanuel Xavier |
| 2. Jaskaran Dooknab | 7. Jean Henry Ythier |
| 3. Churn Madhoo | 8. Délie Dalais |
| 4. Antoine Roger Nallétamby | 9. Louis Jules Lemasson |
| 5. Hessurlall Seetulsing | |

WARDERS, DISPENSERS AND NURSES

At the examination held in March 1925, 12 male and 9 female candidates presented themselves. Four candidates satisfied the examiners in all the subjects and were granted the certificate of competency :—

- | |
|--|
| 1. Miss A. Foucault trained at the Civil Hospital |
| 2. Mrs. Leuck-Yin „ „ |
| 3. Miss M. Simpson „ Civil and Poudre d'Or Hospitals |
| 4. Miss S. D'Albret „ Victoria Hospital |

Four male candidates were successful on re-examination in Midwifery in August, 1925, and were granted the certificate of competency :—

- | |
|---|
| MM. I. Ramsay trained at the Civil Hospital |
| D. Peerbacus „ „ |
| G. Grenouille „ Civil and Flacq Hospitals |
| A. Létandrie „ Moka Hospital. |

At the examination held in December 1925 and January 1926, 19 candidates (10 males & 9 females) presented themselves for the 2nd part of the examination ; 10 (5 males & 5 females) satisfied the examiners and were granted the certificate of competency :

- | |
|---|
| Miss Y. Prodigue trained at Victoria Hospital |
| „ M. Bazile „ Poudre d'Or Hospital |
| Mr. E. Rungasamy „ the Civil Hospital |
| „ G. Marie Louise „ „ |
| „ L. Joseph „ Victoria „ |
| Mrs. Ww. L. Legrand „ the Civil „ |
| „ „ H. Joseph „ Souillac „ |
| Mr. L. Babet „ the Civil „ |
| „ Hope „ Mahébourg and Flacq hospitals |
| Mrs. Ww. C. Thomasse „ Souillac Hospital |

MIDWIVES

In 1925, the undermentioned persons were successful at the examinations held in Midwifery and were authorised, under Proclamation of the 10th May 1817 (Code Farquhar No. 225), to practise midwifery in cases of normal labour, on the condition that they should submit themselves every two years to a test examination (failing which their certificate would be withdrawn) :—

Mrs. Lechartier
 „ Pastor
 „ Camille
 „ Nanette
 „ Toolsy
 Miss Coulon

Miss Ladégourdie
 Mrs. Bailloux
 Miss E. Ithier
 Mrs. J. Azemothe
 Miss Léona Gerald
 Miss Atisse.

CERTIFICATED SANITARY INSPECTORS.

The undermentioned officers were granted the Certificate of Competency as Sanitary Inspector, of the Royal Sanitary Institute (England), after the examination held in Mauritius in October, 1925, under the auspices of that institute :—

1. Arnold Jouana, Sanitary Inspector
2. Arnold Bouquet, „
3. Abraham Arouff, Warder and Compounder, Prisons Dept.
4. J. Edwin Curé, Sanitary Guard
5. Pierre Caëttanne Hermelin, Sanitary Inspector
6. Ugo Pelati, Sanitary Inspector
7. Henri Dubois, „
8. Francois Xavier Marie Bussier, Sanitary Guard
9. Louis Auxynius de Fontenay, „

APPENDIX X.

LEGISLATION

List of Ordinances, and Notifications affecting the Medical and Health Department passed during 1925.

ORDINANCES

- No. 14.—To provide for the early notification of Births.
 28.—To amend Ordinance No. 20 of 1868 (Ordinance re : establishment of public Hospitals and Dispensaries).
 47.—To make provision for the Public Health.

NOTIFICATIONS.

(*Rules and Regulations, &c.,*)

- G. N. No. 5. }
 77. }
 203. } Opium, Morphine, Cocaine and kindred drugs.
 6. } Pit and Pail latrines.—Regulations re-applicable to estates within the
 33. } meaning of the Labour Ordinance (1922).
 11.—Prohibition of sugar cane plantations in certain localities.
 24.—Bathing and washing prohibited in River Tabac.
 19. }
 39. } Provisions for preventing spread of Infectious Diseases.
 83. }
 40.—Mental Hospital.—Management.
 58.—Rivers and Rivulets—Amends Schedule B of Ordinance 13 of 1875 as replaced by Schedule of Ordinance 6 of 1921, with regard to Rivulet Pondard (Flacq).
 97.—Mental Hospital.—Diet Scale.
 154.—Bacteriological Laboratory—Amended tariff of charges.
 162.—Measures as regards passengers and ships proceeding to U.S. Africa when plague or any infectious &c., disease exists in Mauritius.
 174.—Pit and Pail Latrines—Amended regulations relative to.
 190.—Regulations made under the Pharmacy Ordinance, 1912, relative to the sale of simple medicines &c., by Traders.
 257.—Septic Tanks—Amended Regulations relative to the construction of.

